

## Child of the Cold War – Prologue

The Cold War began In February 1946 with George F. Kennan's "Long Telegram" from Moscow helped to articulate the growing hard line that was being taken against the Soviets, and became the basis for US strategy toward the Soviet Union throughout the rest of the Cold War. In December 1989, Mikhail Gorbachev and George H. W. Bush declared the Cold War officially over at a summit meeting in Malta.

The legacy of the Cold War continues to structure world affairs. Some of the economic and social tensions that underpinned Cold War competition in parts of the Third World remain acute. The breakdown of state control in a number of areas formerly ruled by Communist governments has produced new civil and ethnic conflicts, particularly in the former Yugoslavia.

Based on the lead sentence in the second paragraph, some assert that the Cold War never ended, it just changed character. Where had I heard that before? Tired Old Man (TOM) asserted that in several of his stories. In the period since the Cold War ended, China has worked at a furious pace to build the PLA. All branches of the military in China are part of the PLA.

According to *Military Power of the People's Republic of China 2008*, China has the following ICBMs: CSS-4 – 20; CSS-5 – 60; DF-31 – 10; and, DF-31A – 10; DF-41 – unknown, some of which are MIRV'd. Their Navy has: 45 Frigates; 29 Destroyers; 26 Tank Landing Ships; 28 Medium Landing Ships; 54 Diesel Attack subs; 5 SSNs; 45 Coastal Patrol vessels; 1 type 92 Xia class SSBNs and 2 type 94 Jin class SSBNs which fire either the JL-1 or JL-2 missile. Their air assets include: 1,630 fighter; 620 bombers/attack; and 450 cargo planes. They also appear to be working on an Air Craft Carrier. They have 1.25 million people in uniform, 6,700 tanks and 7,400 artillery pieces.

Much has been said about the state of things in Russia. Don't believe everything you read in the MSM, they have oil money now. They're building a new class of SSBNs (bigger than the Ohio, smaller than the Typhoon), have a much improved SLBM and are rapidly modernizing their missile program. They don't take anything out of service until they have a working replacement. Their missile air defense relies on nukes and actually works. Talk was they were developing the Black Eagle tank, and then it appeared they would be fielding the T-95 instead during 2009. It is said to incorporate many features of the Abrams including heavier frontal armor, a crew of three all in the hull, an autoloader, blowout panels and either a 125mm or 152mm smoothbore gun. Russia has two operational Typhoon class SSBNs. They also have a few other operation subs, either diesel or SSNs. After 8 years as President, Putin took a new job title, Prime Minister. The more things change, the more they stay the same.

We've had about all of the regional conflicts we're going to have and, one these days, the major powers will finally go at it in what will be called WW III, a Global Thermonuclear War with no winners. There will be three classes of people, the dead, the dying and the prepared.

## Child of the Cold War – Chapter 1

Meet the Brentwood family. Currently, the titular head of the family is John, age 60, works for a wholesale grocery store as a departmental manager. He brings home a fair paycheck that provides for his family and leaves him a bit of pocket money. John's wife is Anne and she's about 2 years younger and was a stay at home mom while the kids lived at home. A Registered Nurse, she went to work when the kids started college to help defray the expense of their educations. Their oldest is John, Jr. or Johnny. Johnny finished college two years ago, married his sweetheart Jennie, and they have a baby, John III or Jon-Jon. He works for an advertising firm in the state capital. Their youngest is Rachael who is an extremely attractive College Senior majoring in History/Education. Rachael had gone steady with David since her junior year.

Back in 1998 or 1999, John became aware of the Y2K scare and started a new hobby, preparedness. John started to visit several survivalist websites and ran across stories written by Halfast, Fleataxi, TOM and Jerry D Young, among others. TOM was partial to the M1A rifle so John went to a gun store in Des Moines and checked one out. It was a nice rifle, if not a bit heavy. Two features attracted him, the possibility of larger capacity magazines and the fact that it was a .30 caliber rifle that the salesman said had real stopping power.

The rifle was built by Springfield Armory in Illinois and a bit on the pricey side. There was a possibility, the salesman said, that the Assault Weapons ban could expire in 2003. If so, 20 round magazines would become legal again. ATM, only pre-ban high capacity magazines were legal and expensive. The store also had a Springfield Armory GI .45 at a reasonable price. The rack held an unusual looking shotgun and John asked to see it. It had a peep sight that the salesman called a ghost ring sight. The gun was a special model made for the military, a model 590A1 in 12-gauge.

He had acquired gold whenever he could afford it, usually buying a one ounce Krugerrand and had been since they started selling Krugerrands in the US. He'd seen his gold rise in value and fall in value, but he always bought cheap. He had a cigar box in his safe with quite a stack of gold coins. He also had his pocket money bundled up with rubber bands. He added up the price of the guns in his head and it amounted to just over \$3,000 or 150 \$20 bills. He had two stacks of bundled 20s representing over 4 years of skipped/missed lunches. John will pick up the tale now.

"Honey, I went to the gun store this morning at looked at what they had. I saw three that I'd like to buy. I've saved my pocket money and have enough to buy the guns plus allow you to do some extra grocery shopping."

"You're worried about that Y2K thing?"

"I think they'll get it sorted out in time, but just in case they don't, it couldn't hurt to be a little prepared."

“Well, if you think that’s what’s best and you won’t get into the family budget, go ahead.”

“Decide you wanted one of the guns?”

“I’d like all three, the rifle, the pistol and the shotgun.”

“Hum, I’ll ask the boss and maybe he’ll give you a small price break for buying three at once.”

“I’m all for that, it took a long time to save this money.”

“I’m back. He says he won’t give you a discount, but he will include some pre-ban magazines.”

“What are those?”

“They’re magazines that existed when the Assault Weapons Ban was implemented. He has GI surplus 20-round and Taiwanese type 57 magazines. He’ll give you 4 type 57s and will sell you more at 5% over cost, if you want them.”

“How many would you recommend?”

“As many as you can afford.”

We talked a while and I learned that the type 57 magazines came in a box of 25. We discussed price and I ended up with a full box, paying for the other 21 at a little over his cost. We began to discuss ammo because without ammo, those guns were nothing more than clubs. The salesman referred me to one or two websites where I could buy ammo online with a credit card and have it shipped. He suggested that I look into the Speer line of ammo for the .45. If I could get military surplus, especially Lake City, I’d have good rifle ammo.

We got down to brass tacks discussing which model of rifle to buy. The most recent model was the Loaded Standard model brought out in '96 which had several features of the National Match including a medium weight air gauge match barrel. I believe I let him talk me into it. It had a synthetic stock and several NM features and wasn’t that much more than the Standard model. I even let him talk me into the Springfield Armory leather sling. The Mossberg even had a bayonet lug. The handgun I selected was a Springfield Armory GI .45.

I had a good bit of money left so I gave Anne \$1,000 for some heavy duty grocery shopping and kept the remainder back for ammo. In fact, I put the guns up and went with her to do the heavy carrying.

“Think very basic foods, honey. Stuff that will keep forever... is relatively cheap and is things that we’d normally eat. One thing that comes to mind is dried pinto beans to use

for chili. You'll need to get the other ingredients, like chili powder, dried onions, something tomato and anything else you put in your chili."

"Now John, I made a list and I plan to shop from it. I'll need 100# of pintos, 25# of kidneys and about double as much rice plus the other ingredients. You push the cart and I'll do the shopping."

"Yes dear."

"If I run over a little do you have your extra pocket money with you?"

"Yes, but don't run over too far."

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We were actually well prepared when Y2K came and went. We were rotating the foods we'd purchased to keep the freshest food in our supplies. We discussed, briefly, just using up the food, but nixed the idea because anything could happen at any time. Then, on September 11, 2001 the country was attacked by terrorists. Everyone in the world knows what happened that day in New York and Washington. However, very few knew how we reacted, especially after the anthrax scare.

I had taken my left over money and purchased ammo, Speer Lawman and Gold Dot. I had around 6,000-rounds of Lake City 7.62x51mm and I had a case of 3" Brenneke slugs and two cases of 15-pellet 00 buck, all three inch shells. Plus I had rebuilt my cash on hand to a bit over \$1,000. I couldn't buy the ammo all at once and had to accumulate pocket money and buy in batches. Also I hadn't purchased any gold in quite some time but I occasionally picked up a roll of pre-65 dimes, quarters or halves.

My first move was to order a full case of N-95 masks and get the family doctor to write an Rx for Doxycycline because it was cheaper than ciprofloxacin and just as effective against anthrax. As I accumulated money, I purchased gas masks when DHS suggested duct tape and plastic. Later Cipro became cheaper and I got an Rx for that, too. When Tamiflu was all the rage, I bought some of that for all of us, plus extra in case the kids got married. John was in college and dating a gal named Jennie. Rachael was in her junior year of high school. The Doxycycline turned out to be a bad decision; it had a one year shelf life.

Anne took a job at a hospital to earn money to pay for John's college at U of I in Iowa City and accumulate a little for when Rachael went. I guess I haven't said much about my work, where we live and so forth. We live about 25-30 miles outside the capital, Des Moines, and I work for Costco. Anne works for Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines and we car pool as much as our schedules allow.

Bush started a war in Afghanistan in 2001 because of 9/11 and in Iraq in 2003. Some suggest that President Bush overstated his case about why we went into Iraq. I know a

little about war because when I was in high school, we had the Cuban Missile Crisis. TOM talks about that a lot in his stories because he was in the Air Force at that time. He claims that there were B-47 bombers on the flight line at EAFB carrying nukes. I guess he's about 5 years older than me.

When we bought our home, we discovered something that the realtor failed to mention or didn't know about, a 1950s era bomb shelter. There had been a fair number built back in the 50s around Iowa. Although, I must say, that the people who built them were generally viewed as being crackpots. This shelter was large for what they were building back in those days, about 1,200ft<sup>2</sup> (30x40). It had a water line from the well pump, a connection to the septic line, a small sink and toilet. It lacked as much as it had, in that it didn't have an air filtration system, reliable power, anything to cook on, or anything stored.

I took some of the money I had in my stash of cash and bought the package from KI4U. I added extra dosimeters (CD V-742), a Geiger counter (CD V-700) and a remote survey meter (CD V-717). The Package only included 2 bottles of KI and we needed more than that, so I ordered KIO<sub>3</sub> from Medical Corps.org. We added some shelving to the shelter and Anne and I moved some of the food down there. I shopped around and found some old military bunk beds and bought 6, all the guy had. They went into the shelter too. They were 30" bunks and cost me \$150 a set. I found a used 6' folding table at a garage sale and added that and 6 folding chairs to the shelter.

I may have had a lot more money when I went gun shopping, except for those purchases to get the shelter ready to use. This is tornado country and having some kind of shelter is generally high on everyone's list. I constructed a homemade air filter system. I started out with a 20" box fan and 3 5" HEPA filters.

HEPA Corporation takes minipleat design one step further than the industry standard with its 5" HEPA ENERGY SAVER filters. Offering greater design flexibility and longer life, these filters are better suited to meeting your velocity, airflow, pressure drop, efficiency and frame size requirements. By upgrading to 5" HEPA ENERGY SAVER filters, both new and existing installations can realize savings of approximately 50% in equipment and energy costs over the industry standard hepa filters.

The 5" HEPA ENERGY SAVER advantage:

- 2000 CFM @ 1.42" w.g. \* with a minimum efficiency of 99.97% in a 24"x24" filter. 100 FPM @ 0.22" w.g. in a 24"x24" filter.
- Upgrade from hepa to ulpa with no additional operating costs and little or no equipment changes.
- Low energy cost per filter in new or existing clean room designs.

DOP, PSL, scan and/or laser efficiency tested as required.

\* Factory tested at 2000 CFM on production filters - not extrapolated from 1000 CFM test flow.

That was the ad from their website. I found the filters and built my own little air cleaning rig. I used sheet metal to form a square box 24"x24"x12" for the front and 24"x24"x6" for the back. I inserted the first filter in both sides and added a tiny bead of silicon then added the second filter in front and another tiny bead of silicon. It had to be small enough to remove if I needed to change the filters. I discovered that the 5" filter was actually 5 $\frac{7}{8}$ " thick.

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Next, I got my technicians license and bought a fair to good used ham radio, with antenna. We already had a Starduster on the roof of the house, so I ran a parallel line to the shelter. I used some 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " pipe for a mast and raised the ham antenna up to about the same height as the CB antenna.

Christmas 2004 we bought a house gift, 4 pairs of FRS/GMRS radios and 6 handheld 40 channel CB radios. I drug our folding card table to the shelter to use as a communications table and to store the radiation equipment. I also added two more chairs. Johnny was beginning to become serious about Jennie and indicated privately that he was giving a little thought to marriage. He would be a junior in the fall and Rachael a freshman, both of them at U of I.

I took both of them shooting several times and Johnny favored all the guns while Rachael thought that the M1A and the 590A1 were too much for her. She said if I got a 9mm pistol, she might like that. I checked with that dealer in Des Moines, Smith, and the prices had risen sharply. Maybe it only seemed like that, it had been 5 years. I told him I'd settle for a good used M1A but if he couldn't find one, call me and I'd buy new. I mentioned the shotgun and told him it was the same deal as before except I guess I needed 4 good used Browning Hi-Powers. My pocket money had increased from \$20 a week to \$30 a week and I was still skipping lunches.

I realized that I'd made provisions to arm John all the way around, Jennie, Anne and Rachael with a 9mms handguns, but hadn't made any provision in case Rachael got a steady boyfriend. It hurt this time when I had to pay for the guns that he located for me. I had to settle for a new rifle, new .45 and got new 9mms. I got more Lake City from Ammoman and some of the Lawman 124gr and Gold Dot 124gr +P. Rather than going with more 00 buck, I ordered 100 rounds of flechette ammo from that guy in Medford, Oregon. Flechettes will punch through a level IIA body armor like a hot knife through soft butter.

Later, I got more .45acp ammo from Ammoman, 1,000 each of Lawman and Gold Dot +P, both 200gr. The next big event was Johnny's graduation from college followed a few weeks later by Jennie and him getting married. A few months later, they were expecting

and Rachael said something about becoming a history teacher. She brought along a fella named David for Thanksgiving and went to his house for Christmas. He seemed like a nice enough kid and if that's who she liked, it was her choice. Anne said that she had dated some but hadn't found anyone she really liked, until now.

That Thanksgiving (2006), I passed out the Browning Hi-Powers, 5 13-round magazines, a holster, a web belt, 2 double magazine pouches and 500-rounds of the Lawman and the Gold Dot. I told the 4 ladies that that Lawman ammo was for practice and they should let me know if they wanted some so they could practice elsewhere. I also gave Johnny his rifle, shotgun, pistol and a portion of the ammo.

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We paid off our house in March of 2007 and I asked Anne if we could devote half of the payment to Rachael's education and the other half to preparations. She said that she'd hoped to give up her job, but realized that she couldn't do that until Rachael graduated. Instead, she suggested that she take half of the house payment for her own preparations and I take the other half for mine. I had no idea what she had planned, but I knew what I wanted to do. It just seemed to me that we were getting close to that war nobody wanted and I intended to expand into new areas.

For instance, you could buy canning jar lids by the case from Canning Pantry but not the jars. They came by the dozen and sometimes you could get them cheaper locally. I had always collected them at garage sales, making sure I only took Ball or Kerr jars. I had a good mix of pints and quarts, all standard mouth. Seven years of collecting jars actually amounted to a rather large supply, about 1,000 quarts and 500-600 pints.

My next purchase was from Canning Pantry and I bought the large 30 quart All American Pressure Canner and 2 full cases of lids. I still had more jars than lids, but I was waiting for a sale, when I'd buy two more cases. You only saved 2¢ per lid, but that was \$14.40 per case. Then, I stopped by the propane company to discuss the size of tank I had.

"Our tank or your tank?"

"Your tank. I wanted to increase the size."

"You have a 550, they store 500-gallons. Based on your usage, that's as large as we'll rent to you."

"What is my other choice?"

"You can buy your own. We sell them in 300, 500, 1,000 and 3,000-gallon, net capacity. We also offer financing for up to one year on the 1,000 and smaller and two years on the 3,000 gallon tanks."

“How much is the monthly payment?”

He quoted me a figure that would eat up my half of the house payment. I asked if that was installed and he said installed and the contents of my present tank transferred to the new tank. I told him to go ahead and he said it would be two days. That evening, I told Anne about the new tank and she asked a question.

“How do you intend to fill it?”

“I hadn’t thought about that. The price today was \$0.92 per gallon. He told me that the price could double in the next year.”

“So, if I put my half towards filling the tank and you pay for the tank, how long will it take to fill the tank?”

“I’d guess that would depend on what the prices do. At the moment, you could buy over 300 gallons with your half.”

Anne had \$300 per month to spend and the price on the last day of the following months and the amount of propane she bought was:

Feb07	\$0.99	303	Mar07	\$1.06	283	Apr07	\$1.13	265	May07	\$1.13	265
Jun07	\$1.15	261	Jul07	\$1.21	248	Aug07	\$1.23	244	Sep07	\$1.32	227
Oct07	\$1.53	196	Nov07	\$1.45	207	Dec07	\$1.58	190	Jan08	\$1.46	205
Feb08	\$1.71	175									

We had transferred about 400 gallons and had purchased 3,069 gallons for the sum of \$3,900. We could now top off the tank as part of our regular expense and she could take her share of the house payment for her own use. We would own the tank after another 11 payments. However, Anne said she’d help pay for the tank so we could be out from under it in about 6 months and even have a little money to spend on ourselves.

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At the same time, we were making a few additional preps. I had my pocket money of \$30 per week and so did she. During the time we were paying off the tank and filling it, we pretty much stayed home except to go to work. The kids came to visit when they could spare the time or it was a holiday. Gas prices were hovering just below \$2.50 per gallon here in Iowa in the first part of 2008. I took a small portion of my accumulated pocket money and added it to the house payment money and paid off the tank in June 2008. Max fill on a 3,300-gallon tank for our area is 3,000 gallons (90%).

Just after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, our Independence Day holiday, I decided to look for a generator. Our home had a 100 amp 120/240v service and about the only time we lost power was when winter ice or high winds took a power line down. Diesel fuel was running



about \$0.60 a gallon higher than gasoline and we had a large propane tank so I went looking for a good, used propane fueled generator.

What I found was less than pleasing, but affordable. It was a RS 12000. It was supposed to be 12kw, but only put out ~92 amps. The seller was replacing it with a RS 30000. He said he paid about \$4,000 including the ATS and I could have the whole thing for \$2,500 cash and I had to move it. I ran into the guy when he came into the store to order the generator and 200-amp ATS. That was a good sale, over \$17,000 with tax and I found a deal I couldn't turn down. Johnny helped me move the generator and ATS. We mounted the ATS and connected the generator to it. Next, one of our neighbors, Herb, came over and finished the wiring.

"You want to try it?"

"It won't work."

"Why not?"

"We haven't connected the propane yet."

"Do you have the pipe?"

"I don't. I haven't had time to measure yet."

"Looks like a straight run to me, get your tape measure and measure it; I may have a piece of pipe the right length. Liquid propane right?"

"No, propane vapor."

"That's over my head; you'd better call a professional and get it done right. I think you'll need a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " pipe and maybe a secondary regulator. Check the yellow pages while you're at work."

I had a better idea; we had to arrange for the installation of the RS 30000. I called the installer and asked if he had an installation date set and he indicated he did. I then explained my situation and asked how much he would charge to finish my installation. His answer was: pay for the parts, refill his gas tank and a case of Sam Adams Light.

You ever heard the one about the guy whose car broke down? He calls a mechanic who shows up, lifts the hood and reconnects a wire. "Try it now." The mechanic says. The vehicle starts right up and the guy asks the mechanics how much he owes him. "\$40." The guy says, "But all you did was plug in a wire." The mechanic sort of agrees, "Plugging in the wire was free. My knowing which wire to plug in cost you \$40."

My point is that I was happy to pay for the parts, buy his gas and a case of beer. It was cheap at twice the price. I looked up the generator in the store because we sell them. Now they go for about six grand.

I got home just as he was finishing up. He showed me what he'd done and started the exerciser. It fired right up. He shut it back down, and flipped a switch that cut off the power from the grid and it fired back up and the house had power.

"I figured I should put in that extra box so you have a choice of cutting loose from the grid if you choose. I used the boss's material and will settle for that case of beer. He pays mileage and he might just as well pay me as you."

"The beer is on the porch, I'll get it."

"Thanks. I checked the oil and the generator is ready to go. You can contact Cummins to get filters. They recommend Valvoline oil. I left you all of the manuals; read them over before you have a problem. Take care of the generator and it will take care of you."

He'd made some changes to how we'd installed the generator. We used those long nails to anchor it to the ground; he'd replaced them with a very long screw that had far more grip than the nails. The spec sheet said it burned from 1.4 to 2.2gph. With a full tank we had 1,263 hours up to 2,143 hours not counting the house tank.

"Anne, I need to pick up some oil filters and Valvoline for that generator to keep it up. It has an automatic exerciser and runs once a month for 15 minutes. What would you think about moving the freezer down to the shelter?"

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"That would be very inconvenient. If we do it, I'll hold you responsible for dragging up the weekly meat supply and stocking it when we go shopping."

"I think I can handle that. I looked up the generator I bought. We sell them for around six grand and I got this one for \$2,500, cash, including the automatic transfer switch."

"How many hours on the meter?"

"Fifty-five, it's hardly broken in. If the only time he ran it was monthly for 15 minutes, which would account for 52 of the 55 over a 4 year period. He must have had a power outage in a storm."

"We have a tornado watch until 10pm."

"It's that time of year. We've sure had a lot lately, especially in the southeast."

“Iowa had floods, the east coast is burning up and I saw where it was 105° in Palmdale, CA today.”

“Why do I know Palmdale? It will come to me, something to do with Frugal Squirrel. Oh wait, TOM lives in Palmdale. He’s from Iowa, Charles City, he said. Even went to ISU for a couple of years. That’s the guy that got me pointed to the M1A. I think I have all three of the guns he recommends, except he bought a Taurus PT1911 and I have a Springfield Armory GI .45. I have something I copied, ‘Tips’ by TOM and XORUSS or something like that. Russ is from Payson, Utah and teaches CERT.”

Rachael and David were talking marriage. I realized that I hadn’t gotten him any guns. I checked and the prices were way up. The shotgun and rifle without the pistol cost more than I’d paid for all three the last time I’d purchased guns. I couldn’t get a Springfield Armory GI .45 so I got a Taurus and swapped it for the .45 I had. As much as I didn’t want to get into my rainy day cash, my pocket money, I bought the firearms for David. Then, I got more ammo from Ammoman, Igman 146gr, 5 cases, Lawman and Gold Dot +P, 1,000 rounds of each in 200gr. I got a case of 00 and a case of slugs plus 4 25 round boxes of flechettes. Rachael and David graduated and I expected to hear them announce a wedding date, but that didn’t happen. She lined up a job in Ames teaching History and said she’d be living at home for now if that was ok. David took a job with Meredith in Des Moines and rented an apartment.

“Anne, what’s with Rachael and David, I thought they were getting married.”

“Second thoughts or cold feet. She said she’d hate to try raising a family in the current state the world is in. Stay out of it, they’ll work it out.”

“I thought it was a done deal; I went shopping and bought David the same weapons I gave Johnny.”

“Well, if not David, maybe she’ll meet someone else. If you have an extra rifle, you could teach me to shoot it. You knew that Rachael bought her own rifle didn’t you?”

“No, what did she buy?”

“A Mini-14 and a bunch of 30-round magazines. She had some extra money from that job she worked during her senior year and bought the gun and magazines but didn’t have money for ammo.”

“I’ll get some; Eric has some M193 on stripper clips. I’ll get 6 boxes that should last her for a while.”

“I like the look of the rifle, could I have one? I have the money to pay for it and the magazines. You could buy more boxes of ammo and she and I could split it.”

“Do you want the M1A of a Mini-14?”

“I want to shoot the M1A and I want to own a Mini-14.”

“Should we think about getting one for Jennie?”

“I said something to Johnny and I think he’s planning to get her one.”

“I’d better get about ten cases for now and hope he gets more in. That’s about as far as I can stretch my pocket money.”

## Child of the Cold War – Chapter 2

“Let me kick in a little and you can get 12 so we have 4 cases each.”

“They’re only 900-round cases, so you’ll have 3,600 rounds apiece. We’ll get you each a stripper clip guide or two, they run about a buck.”

“When will you order?”

“I’ll call New Jersey tomorrow, get their banking info and have our bank wire the money.”

Ammoman also had M193 loose in the box and it was slightly cheaper. If I bought stripper clips and spent several nights putting the 5.56x45mm on the used strippers, I have the same setup, more ammo, but no savings.

They were surprised when I told them we needed 12 900-round cases of the M193 on strippers and were a bit reluctant to give out their bank info over the phone. Eric sent me an email with the info and I got Anne’s cash and my cash and put it in the bank. They sent the wire for \$5,268, for a fee of course. I got a confirming email from Eric and he said they’d ship tomorrow. I corresponded with him more than once and I’m convinced that he doesn’t actually send the emails, but everyone who works for him uses his email address.

Five days later, UPS pulled up and the driver didn’t look one bit happy. I got a snotty, “Going to war?” and he stacked it in the middle of the yard. That wiped out most of the money, leaving only enough to buy the rifle and magazines for Anne. I told her she’d have to wait a while and I’d pick up some ALICE gear at a surplus store.

“Who’s Alice?”

“No dear, it’s ALICE as in All-Purpose Lightweight Individual Carrying Equipment, adopted by the Army in 1974. It will add suspenders for your pistol belt, magazine carriers, a field bandage pouch, a canteen cover and so forth. Would you like an entrenching tool?”

“To dig a trench?”

“Yes.”

“No.”

A web search identified multiple sources for stripper clip guides and I paid a buck apiece for guides for the PMI magazines we bought for the Mini-14. When Johnny and Jennie came to visit, I gave him 4 cases of the ammo, the guides and suggested he pick up some ALICE gear for Jennie.

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I tried to keep some extra money in my wallet in case we got something in at the store that we could use, which brings us back to my pocket money, I was accumulating it in my wallet for now. For example, we generally carried 50# bags of Jasmine rice, but with the economy in the toilet and people worried about food, we'd run out. We got in 3 additional pallets and I'd purchased 3 more bags. Pinto beans came in 25# bags and were generally purchased by the Mexican restaurants. There had been a run on those so I bought 3 bags when they came in.

I like the Kirkland beef and chicken in cans. You could add a little BBQ sauce to the beef and have BBQ beef sandwiches or add mayo to the chicken and have chicken salad. Plus, we sold tuna and Folgers coffee and I made sure our supplies at home never dropped.

We lived in Iowa's 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District (Story County) and this District had supported Neal Smith for years, but turned Republican and put Greg Ganske in office in '94. After him we had another Republican, Tom Latham. Smith had a good run, 30 years. I'd always voted Republican but I suspect that Anne voted for Neal Smith, regardless of his party.

I went to the Story County Sheriff and got the forms so we could get Concealed Carry Permits. Rachael, Anne and I filled them out and I took them back. The way it works here is:

A nonprofessional permit may be issued to a person who can reasonably justify his or her going armed. Any restrictions are listed on the permit. To obtain a professional or nonprofessional permit, an applicant must be:

- at least 18.
- have never been convicted of a felony.
- not addicted to alcohol or any controlled substance.
- have no history of repeated acts of violence.
- reasonably determined by the issuing officer that the applicant
- does not constitute a danger to any person.

A person shall not be issued a permit to carry weapons unless the person has completed and signed an application on a form to be prescribed and published by the commissioner of public safety. The applicant shall also display an identification card that bears a distinguishing number assigned to the cardholder, personal identifying information, a brief description and colored photograph.

New applicants are fingerprinted by some licensing authorities. The applicant must successfully complete a firearms instruction course which includes a proficiency test with a

handgun and receive a certificate of completion. The training program must be approved by the Commissioner of Public Safety, and the Commissioner or county Sheriff may conduct it or may contract with a private organization or use the services of other agencies, or may use a combination of the two, to provide such training. A fee sufficient to cover the cost of the program may be charged each person attending. The training requirements may be waived for renewal permits. A person armed with a handgun concealed upon the person must have in the person's immediate possession their concealed carry permit and shall produce the permit for inspection at the request of a peace officer.

We were turned down flatly. I asked to speak to the Sheriff and was told that the Sheriff had delegated the decision to his Chief Deputy and I could speak to him. I did and he didn't have a good reason why we get couldn't permits, saying the burden of proof was on us to demonstrate the need. He said we failed to do so and that was that. The Sheriff was running for reelection, so I attended a political fund raising party. I made a modest contribution and mentioned to him the problem I was having with his Chief Deputy. The three of us had completed the course and now have our permits.

Johnny must have caught the Polk County Sheriff on a good day, Jennie and he have theirs.

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Rachael stopped seeing David and started seeing another teacher in Ames. He was about a year older and taught Science. Interestingly, his name was David, too. We had him down for Sunday Dinner.

"What kind of Science do you teach?"

"General Science, Mr. Brentwood. I teach grade school."

"Call me John, David. Anne had schooling post high school, she's an RN, but I stopped there. I've got a pretty good job with Costco Wholesale down in Des Moines. Don't know much about Science except as it bears on things that interest me. I know a bit about radiation and fallout, for example."

"Do you really believe that we could have a nuclear war?"

"It's not a question of if, but when."

"But the only time a country used nuclear weapons was in 1945."

"We came mighty close to using them in 1962. If we'd have invaded Cuba, they had tactical nukes ready to use and missiles ready to fly."

"But, we've grown up some since then."

“David, in 1962, only the US, Russia, France and England had nuclear weapons. China tested its first weapon in 1964. Today there are 9 verified nuclear nations and Iran is apparently working on a bomb.”

“I thought that the North Korean test was a dud.”

“It seems like it was, but the estimates are that they have up to 10 additional weapons. They still haven’t provided the information required by the 6-party talks.”

“David is a hunter, dad.”

“What do you hunt David?”

“Mostly Pheasant, my only firearm is a Remington 870.”

“You don’t have a rifle?”

“You can’t use a rifle to hunt deer in Iowa.”

“But you have a short barrel with rifle sights for deer hunting, don’t you?”

“Actually, I don’t hunt deer, so I don’t have a rifle sighted barrel.”

About now, I wanted to tell Rachael to throw him back and try to catch a real fish, but I kept my mouth shut. Rachael seemed distressed at some of David’s answers and I could see by her expression that Anne felt what I felt. David was probably like most people in Iowa, a shotgun for bird hunting and maybe a handgun for self-defense. He didn’t mention a handgun. In relative terms, there were few center fire rifles in Iowa and fewer still semi-auto center fire rifles. We had 3 in 7.62x51mm NATO and 3 in 5.56x45mm NATO, handguns and riot guns. I wasn’t much of a wing shooter, but I could always get a bird barrel for the Mossberg, either a 24” or a 28” with screw in chokes.

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Rachael was polite to David, but he didn’t stay long. Later, she said, “What a dork, I thought I knew him better. I wonder what the other David is doing.”

“Do you have his number? Give him a call and find out. Invite him up if you want to. You never really said why you and he stopped seeing each other.”

“I caught him flirting with another woman.”

“Honey, guys do that sometimes. It doesn’t mean they’re really interested; it’s more like they’re testing whether the other woman finds them as attractive as you do.”



David was at home, alone and surprised to hear from Rachael, according to Rachael. She invited him up and he said he'd be up within an hour. He missed that by 30 minutes, he was here in a half hour.

"How goes the work for Meredith?"

"I'm just one of many in their market department. It's ok but I'm mostly doing grunt work. It isn't what I imagined it would be based on what the recruiter said."

"David, it usually isn't what the recruiter says it is. If he told you how it really was, you wouldn't be working for them."

"True enough. I really screwed the pooch when I flirted with that gal and Rachael caught me. She really has a temper, doesn't she? Say, where is Rachael?"

"She said she needed to refresh her makeup and we didn't expect you for about another 30 minutes."

"She looks just fine without makeup."

"Are you seeing someone else now?"

"I haven't looked at another woman since Rachael dumped me."

About that time, Rachael entered the living room and she heard his comment and a smile spread on her face.

"So you haven't, huh?"

"What about you?"

"I met another David, but he turned out to be, what, a jerk? He's not the kind of people I thought he was and my family agrees with me. Daddy persuaded me to call you and explained a thing or two to me. I'm sorry for the way I acted."

"I'm sorry I flirted with that woman."

"Your timing left a lot to be desired, I was expecting you to give me a diamond and instead, you're flirting with some bimbo."

"I had the diamond bought and planned to propose that night. I still have it and would be very proud if you would wear it."

"So, are you asking me to marry you?"

“I am.”

“What about the bimbos?”

“I believe that I’ve learned my lesson.”

“Then, I accept.”

David must be an optimist; he had the ring with him. Maybe he thought that he had everything to gain and nothing to lose. Anne had been right, they had worked it out, but not without a little push and explanation from you know who. Iowa’s marriage laws are:

- ID Requirement: Picture identification. You need to provide Social Security information.
- Application Requirement: Both the bride and groom must appear in person at the time of applying.
- Residency Requirement: Do not have to be a resident of Iowa.
- Witness: You need to have one witness (over 18 years of age) with you when you apply for the license.
- Waiting Period: Three business day waiting period.
- If Divorced: A divorce must be final and filed before applicants can apply for a license.
- Fees: \$30+ - cash only. Varies from County to County.
- Other Tests: No other tests necessary.
- Under 18: Applicants 16 or 17 years of age need to have parental consent.

David said he’d take Monday off and they could go to the courthouse on Rachael’s lunch break or after work, it was up to her. Anne said she would go as the adult witness because she wasn’t working Monday. I decided to wait until they were actually married before I gave David the guns I bought for him. Another issue surfaced immediately. Rachael worked in Ames and David lived in an apartment in Des Moines. He said he was a month-to-month tenant and only had to give limited notice.

The best choice seemed to be them renting a house somewhere between Des Moines and Ames. They were empty houses for rent in Cambridge where we lived. It was 25 miles to Des Moines and 17 miles to Ames, close enough for government work. David had been frugal and took me aside and told me how much he had managed to put away from his job. I was surprised, but he couldn’t have had that much cash put away if he been on the dating scene or out drinking in bars. He did much more than Anne and I had during the same period.

Anne suggested that he could live with us until they found the right house. However, he looked around Cambridge and had a list when they met at the courthouse after school on Monday. Once they secured the license, they went house hunting and had one before the end of the day. He had dinner with us and suggested that they go furniture shopping in Ames after work on Tuesday, if they didn’t go overboard, he’d pay cash.

Selling furniture has to be the biggest scam there is. They mark it up and then mark it up again. It may be because the furniture business doesn't have a fast turnover, but I've always felt they were greedy. Anne told them that she also had Thursday off and if they could arrange Thursday delivery, she could be there for the delivery truck.

They would need a bedroom suite including box springs and mattress, night tables and lamps for the bedroom; a sofa and end tables, possibly a coffee table and a couple of recliners for the living room; a propane stove, refrigerator and dining room set for the kitchen. It was a two bedroom house with a basement so they would have limited growing room.

They bought a king sized bed and Rachael said she'd pick up mattress pads, sheets, pillows and a bed cover. David had given notice on his apartment but would have to pay half of the next month's rent. He started moving his food, clothes and other things to the house. When I saw what he had for food, I was very surprised. I hadn't seen him in Costco; he must have done his shopping on the Saturdays or Sundays when I wasn't working. He had enough food for one person for a year. There wasn't a thing in his food preps that wasn't in ours. I'd shown him our food preps before; maybe that's where he came up with his shopping list. On Friday, he was in the store using the same shopping list and dropped a bundle, increasing what he had to a full year for two people.

The wedding was Saturday afternoon with the Methodist minister officiating in a private ceremony. They'd done their marriage counseling one night this past week. That's a church requirement, not a legal requirement. Rachael had joined the Collegiate Methodist Church in Ames, the one on Lincoln Way by the college. I can honestly say that once they decided for real to get married, they didn't let any moss get on their wheels. Johnny and Jennie also attended and after the ceremony, we retired to our home for a fabulous reception feast. I gave David his guns, ammo and gear and helped him load it into their car. I suggested that he starting thinking about a gun safe or a locking closet. We also loaded all of Rachael's guns, ammo and gear. She had moved most of her clothes over the course of the week.

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The only piece of furniture David owned was actually an appliance, an upright freezer that he'd bought used. It was full of meat from Costco, mostly packed in single serving packages. He had one of those Seal-a-Meal gadgets to keep the meat fresh longer. I asked him about his flatware and plates and he said it was all plastic, he had one frying pan and one sauce pan. If he was having spaghetti, he'd boil the spaghetti in the frying pan and heat the sauce in the sauce pan. I wouldn't have lived that way.

He got a friend who owned a pickup to help him move the freezer one night that week. They left for home around 8pm, just when the party was getting rolling. John and Jen stayed until ten and headed back to Des Moines.

I gave David an application to fill out and personally delivered it to the Sheriff. I also had another campaign contribution and the Sheriff told me to send David up to be fingerprinted and set up the gun course. Once issued, a permit is good in all Iowa counties. The trick was living in a county that would issue a permit or knowing what it took to get a permit. The renewal was only \$5 bucks and the Sheriff didn't require anything else.

A permit to carry a concealed weapon is issued under the Sheriff's discretion. To make application you must appear in person to the Story County Sheriff's Office, you must be at least 18 years of age, a resident of Story County with a picture ID (ie: Iowa Driver's License or Iowa ID card) reflecting a Story County address. You will then be required to complete the application for a permit to carry a concealed weapon application.

The Sheriff's professional permit criteria for justification is:

- Employment Reasons
- If your job requires you to carry a weapon, your employer must write a letter of justification on their business letter head stating your job necessitates that you carry a weapon concealed. They must also complete the employers' authorization section of the application form.
- If you are self-employed and transport large sums of money and/or merchandise.
- If you are a collector of valuables and transport them for trade or acquisition.
- Retired Peace Officer

Upon the Sheriff's approval the applicant must take the written and range test (Story County offers the class twice a year, the fee is \$35.00). The new permit is \$10 and renewal each year is \$5.

We were all collectors of valuables, I guess. Over the years, it had become much harder to get an Iowa Concealed Carry Permit. We were one of those May Issue states and we didn't have a right to keep and bear arms in our state Constitution. I suppose when most of the residents were farmers, that made sense. The CCW also served as a permit to purchase because the background check was the same. All of the fun things were outlawed, machine guns, silencers, sawed off shotguns, short barreled rifles, etc. The only thing they hadn't banned was .50BMG rifles. They didn't have to, no one could afford one.

Given a choice between stocking up on food, propane or gasoline and buying a .50BMG rifle was an easy choice for me; I'd go with the food, propane and gasoline. We did practice occasionally with all of our guns and as we did, I replaced the ammo, meaning generally we had more than less of any given caliber. I had my standards, or goals, it was 5,000-rounds of rifle ammo, 1,000-rounds of pistol ammo and 500 rounds of shotgun ammo. If we shot up 4-500 rounds on the range, I'd order a full case for replacement. As a result, we eventually ended up with 5,000-rounds of 5.56x45mm NATO for each of the Mini-14s. It wasn't all on stripper clips, but I saved the clips and used them over.

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“Who are you voting for, Obama or McCain?”

“I’m not ready for Obama, so it will have to be McCain.”

“Obama talks about change.”

“About the only change I like to see would be for the country to go back to the beginning and begin to obey the Constitution. I don’t know how Iowa rates overall, compared to other states, but it is a may issue state and that speaks volumes.”

“You were complaining about the Iowa laws. The Brady Campaign gives Iowa 16 out of 100 possible points. I’d say that makes Iowa gun owner friendly.”

“Half of those points relate to the permits you have to get to buy handguns and the concealed carry permit. A perfect score is zero, none, nada!”

“Blame the legislature, they adjourned without agreeing to change Iowa from a may issue to a shall issue state.”

“Maybe next year. I might live long enough to see it happen. How’s married life?”

“You raised a good one John and I almost let her get away.”

“Shoot those guns yet?”

“I was waiting for you to ask me to go to the range. I’m not from the area so I don’t know any good places to go.”

“We can go to the Olofson Shooting Range in Polk City. Otherwise, we could go to the Banner Shooting Range in Indianola. There’s also a Single Action Shooting Club somewhere southwest of Indianola.”

“You have single action firearms?”

“Doesn’t make much sense to get a Colt Peacemaker when you have a 1911.”

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It had taken years to accumulate what we had and Anne had to go back to work when the kids went to college. After they graduated, she continued working, setting money aside, making sure we stayed out of debt and contributing to our ongoing preparations. We would not have had near as much as we had if I hadn’t skipped lunches for years or if she hadn’t gone back to work. It had been hard, even brutal a few times, but we’re country folks and can survive.

At least our kids weren't spread out all over the country. Rachael and David lived in Cambridge and John and Jen lived in Des Moines. She was expecting a second child and the ultrasound showed it to be a girl. At the moment, they're working on names and I've heard Anne mentioned more than once. John had a good job working for the Insurance Commission as an auditor. He recently was advanced in his job but didn't say what that was all about.

The most likely disaster we'd probably have was a tornado. If we were at home when a tornado warning was issued, we had the shelter. I can't recall a tornado hitting downtown Des Moines. The Ames schools provided shelter after a fashion and Meredith had a lower level in their West Des Moines building. John and Jen had a basement, of course, as do most Iowa homes.

We were mostly blue collar with some semiprofessionals in the mix. The good news about Anne being a registered nurse was our medical supplies. Neither of us took pills unless it was an antibiotic or something like that, but you should see her first aid kit. It looked like something out of an ER and I suspect it probably was; she didn't tell and I didn't ask. That's where she currently worked, the ER. A doctor had seen fit to instruct her in the suturing process. Previously, she'd worked Pediatrics. We were just old fashioned enough that she bought the kids cloth diapers, a pail and diaper bag. She told them if they added up the cost of disposable diapers until the baby was potty trained they'd have the down payment on a new car.

"Channel 5 just aired a tornado warning."

"You'd better call David and Rachael and suggest they come over."

"I already did, they're on their way."

"Did they say where?"

"Southwest and south central Story County."

"That includes us. We won't see the storm until it's too late, I think we'd better go to the storm shelter. They're here, let's go."

We heard a rumbling sound a few minutes later, sort of like a train, but distant. We waited a while and went back to the house, relieved that there was no damage. We turned the TV back on and learned that the tornado had passed between Cambridge and Maxwell, missing everything in its path. It lifted before it got to Iowa Center.

### Child of the Cold War – Chapter 3

It occurred to me that I should run a TV antenna line to the shelter, just in case. That would allow us to stay better informed and we could use the old TV I stored when we got the new one. For your information, we'd moved up from a 21" to a 27" that was HDTV compatible. I'd gotten the converter box for the old TV with the government coupon. The new TV was a 27-inch Sony KD-27FS170FD Trinitron WEGA Digital TV, a dying breed, but cost less than \$400. I'm not really sold on those LCDs and Plasma screens.

Got rice? Yes, 20 50# bags and counting. Plus we had about 400# of beans, more Folgers than we could easily store and about 3 pallet loads of Charmin. It's not heavy, the paper is very thin! Working for Costco was not without its advantages, when a new shipment came in, I sort of got first, or maybe second, pick, if I was working that day. However, when it came to limits and things like that, I was just another customer (member).

We never froze our rice or beans. However, we did freeze flour for 4 days before we put it sealed Mylar bags in 5 gallon food grade pails. It will keep a long time, but not forever, so we stored around 250-300# of flour and several bushels of durum and hard red wheat. Dried pasta that's protected from the critters will keep forever while the shelf life of the sauce is maybe a year or two tops. Never had a bad can of Spam, tuna or the Kirkland meats so I can't tell you how long they'll store. I got a few cans of butter and cheese over the years, sometimes they weren't available. Peanut butter was always a good choice, lots of protein. Boxed cereals were a poor choice because they seem to go stale after a while. Conversely, rolled oats and cream of wheat and the like could be stored for a long time if you kept those critters away.

As far as the tornados went, we probably had a dozen or more watches every summer and 3 or 4 warnings. Iowa had a few EF-5 tornados, spread out over a long time interval. It would be like a huge tornado cutting right through Ames and leaving dozens dead, hundreds injured and property damages in the 10s of millions. That's what an Enhanced F-5 tornado does. The same tornado that missed communities and only tore up a few farms would get much less attention, even if it we had an EF-5. Cambridge is a small community and a large tornado could probably pick up the whole town and deposit it elsewhere.

This year, we had the worst flood in about 150 years. It looks like we've lost maybe 20% of our corn crop and hopefully it was dry enough to get in soybeans, oats or wheat. I'd see the fields on the way to work, but didn't pay much attention. Certain times of the day, I-35 can be awful, due in no minor part to commuters. You've got to watch it; the Iowa Highway Patrol is usually out in force during rush hour.

Since the Iowa law allows employers to prohibit firearms on their premises, I had to leave my Taurus in my glove box. That was still, technically, against company policy even though no one knew I had the .45 in the glove box. I also had a Bug out Bag, even

though it was less than 30 miles home. I know for a fact that Anne has one because I made it up and she carries the Browning in her glove box. Can you imagine what the people at the hospital would say if they knew she had a firearm in her glove box? Probably, "You're fired!"

At the moment, Osama is ahead in the polls, maybe by as much as 5%, God help us. The SCOTUS put off *Heller* until the 30<sup>th</sup> of June. I caught the gist of the decision, but wanted to read it before I talked about it. I can tell you we won, sort of. If you go to the website of the Supreme Court, you can read the full texts of recent opinions.

Crops got planted in late June and early July. They were fast growing crops, some soybeans but mostly oats and wheat. There was, in fact, a corn crop and the White House was being pressured to issue an advisory directing food production over ethanol production. Bush had been tight lipped. A kernel of dent corn produces corn flour, corn meal, hominy, corn oil, corn starch, corn syrup and high fructose corn syrup and ethanol, just to name a few food items.

"How much does the *Heller* decision affect us?"

"Haven't read it, but from what I understand it basically has no effect in Iowa. A place like California, Illinois or Massachusetts may have to revisit some of their laws because they're prohibitive laws. The Court said that arms referred to the arms normally used by the military and that includes .50 caliber rifles and AR15s. I don't know that it overturned Miller although the military does use automatic weapons. The only code section it affects is section 724."

"But, we're set, right? What's covered by section 724?"

"Section 724 includes machineguns, short barreled rifles and shotguns and silencers. The weapons we have are used by military forces somewhere in the world and they are all legal under Iowa law. Say, I was on the internet reading a story and the author mentioned that the proper amount of ammo to have was enough to allow you to load all of your magazines ten times. I only bought 25 magazines per rifle and five per pistol; do you think I should buy more magazines?"

"Dad, I think we have enough. Your rule was 5,000 rounds per rifle, where did you come up with that?"

"From another author, Tired Old Man."

"It's up to you, but I'm not going to change what we have. Is David up to speed on his rifle and shotgun?"

"Natural born shooter, I think. Took to that rifle like a fish takes to water. Call the shotgun his 50-yard gun and his pistol his 25-yard gun. He can do it too. Trouble is, the longest range we've found to shoot on is about 300-yards. He added either 2 or 3 clicks



of elevation and was right on the money. Did you see where Bush is putting on a push to try and get Iran to come clean on their nuclear program?"

"Dad, they'll do what they always do, ignore him. Do you think that training exercise that Israel did in Greece was actually practice for an attack on Iran?"

"The paper said it was saber rattling, but I don't really know. They might be trying to warn Iran, thus the saber rattling, but when they do decide to do it, no one will know it until the bombs fall. When they decided to bomb Syria, did they announce it ahead of time? Hell no, they didn't, they just did it. Same thing happened when they bombed Osi-raq."

"You don't think they're going soft?"

"Why would you ask that?"

"That war with Lebanon. What was that, 33 days and they didn't win?"

"They blew it, that's for sure. They had one Corvette severely damaged, 55 Merkava tanks damaged, including 5 destroyed. They took a licking and sort of stopped ticking; I sure wish Sharon had been awake to run that set to. The thing you fail to realize is that that conflict wasn't regular military against regular military; it was Hezbollah, an insurgent group, against a regular military group, their version of Vietnam. They became a country the year I was born. They won every conflict up until the Second Lebanon War."

"Would you have done it differently?"

"Son, I have no idea. I missed Vietnam and they eliminated the draft. Never served a day, so who am I to criticize professional soldiers? All I can do is offer my opinion, for whatever that is worth. Tell me about this job advancement you got."

"It is barely a raise. My title changed and I guess maybe I got 3% more money which will barely cover the extra taxes. I'm doing exactly the same thing I was doing before, but with less supervision. Doesn't that beat all, a 3% raise when the inflation rate is about 4½%?"

"How long until your next raise?"

"Six months and after that it's 12 month intervals."

"You're not having money problems are you?"

"Not really, we're pretty frugal and save about 10% of every paycheck. We'd like a home of our own one of these days and if we don't force ourselves to save, we'll never have one."

“Decide on a name yet?”

“It will probably be Anne unless Jen changes our minds.”

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The Olympic Games ended in Beijing and there hadn't been any trouble. The US had a NEST team there since late June, just in case. Everyone held their breath hoping China wouldn't attack Taiwan. They didn't. Obama and McCain were in the cat fight to end all cat fights. Obama had raised lots of money, but the Republican Party pockets were deeper. After 17 months on the campaign trail, Hillary returned to the Senate in late June. Her second term would run until 2013.

We had several more tornado watches and one warning but a tornado never touched down. We had enough thundershowers to provide moisture for the crops, something we didn't get every year. I was still adding to my pocket money and still skipping lunches. Somehow the idea of having some readily disposable cash on hand just felt right. Anne had her pocket money too and when she wanted something, she'd like as not buy it.

I sort of wanted a .50 caliber rifle, but the price seemed to go up as fast as I saved money. By skipping lunch I accumulated \$1,560 a year. We also allocated gas money and split that at the end of every month, so I suppose over all it was maybe \$1,800 a year, give or take. That rifle had a MSRP of \$8,650, the monopod was another \$148, extra magazines ran \$135 each, the webbing kit \$59, the Pack Mat (the cheaper of the two cases) \$360 and the ammo \$340 per 80-round case. Then you could add a scope and the BORS, for another \$2,700. On top of that was 6% sales tax. You should have, I told myself, at least ten magazines so that was an extra \$1,215. And, you could never have too much ammo, plan on ten cases in the beginning, \$3,400. I added it up and got a total before sales tax of \$16,532. With sales tax, it was \$17,523.92. I don't think I'll be able to pick it up by the time I'm 70.

I thought about selling my Krugerrands to buy the rifle and decided against it. Gold was hovering around \$900 an ounce and I'd have a capital gain of about \$600 per coin. Moreover, it would take  $\frac{2}{3}$  of my gold coins and I'd rather hang onto them. I had 31 Krugerrands.

“John said that unless Jen changes her mind, they plan to name her Anne.”

“That's so sweet, a namesake. You were really grunting and groaning while you were on the computer, what were you doing?”

“Pricing out a rifle. The rifle with a scope, 10 magazines and a drag bag plus 800 rounds of ammo would run right around \$17,500.”

“What is it, made of, gold?”

“Not but it would take 20 pieces of gold to buy one.”

“Well, it’s your gold, so whatever you decide.”

“I’ve already decided Anne. It’s our gold, not my gold and I’d never pay that much for a rifle.”

“What kind of rifle is it?”

“A Barrett M107, .50 caliber, semi-auto rifle. The ammo is \$4.25 a round. Our snipers use them in Afghanistan and Iraq. They use different ammo, a HEIAP round called Raufoss that will penetrate 11mm of armor.”

“Can you get that ammo? How much would it cost?”

“If I did, I’d likely end up in jail; every round is a destructive device and has to be registered with the feds for \$200 and the state flatly outlaws it; as for cost, \$207.50 per round plus sales tax on 7.50.”

“But .50-caliber is legal, right?”

“Yes, anything less than .60-caliber is legal.”

“You always did have an eye for the best of the best.”

“Oh, that’s not the best of the best. Accuracy International makes the best of the best in the UK. Figure over thirteen grand for a rifle, the AS50 or the AW50. One is semi-auto and the other bolt action.”

“It was just a thought.”

“Thanks honey, but I’ll make do with what I have.”

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That was why we got along so well, neither of us pushed the other. We each had our pocket money to avoid conflicts just like this could become. I could have spent my pocket money on lunch or I could simply save it. I saved it and most of it ended up in guns, ammo and LTS foods. I improvised where needed, like my homemade air purification system. I had adapted a 20” box fan and 3 HEPA filters into a system that did about the same thing as one of those AV-150s for a fraction of the cost. We didn’t have any blast valves that automatically opened and closed, but we did have valves that served the same purpose. Actually, what we have is better; those blast valves wouldn’t close in a tornado.

One day in early September, I was surfing the web looking for information on sighting in M1A rifles. I had the paper that came with the rifle that explained it all, but I was sort of looking for a table. What I found was the course of fire for the match described was:

- Stage 1. Standing position at 200 yards, 2 sighting shots and 10 shots for record in a time limit of 12 minutes.
- Stage 2. Sitting or kneeling position (from standing) at 200 yards, 2 sighting shots in a time limit of 2 minutes and one ten (10) shot rapid-fire string for score in a time limit of 60 seconds.
- Stage 3. Prone position (from standing) at 300 yards, 2 sighting shots in a time limit of 2 minutes and one ten (10) shot rapid-fire string for score in a time limit of 70 seconds.
- Stage 4. Prone position at 600 yards, 2 sighting shots and 20 shots for record in a time limit of 22 minutes.

Any center-fire high power rifle with metallic sights may be used (see NRA Rules 3.1 and 3.3).

I wasn't planning on driving to Burbank, CA just to compete in a rifle match but it set me to thinking. If the match I described included ranges of 200, 300 and 600-yards, maybe we ought to practice at those ranges. We could probably never become truly proficient, excluding David, but it would be nice to be able to force someone to duck. I've heard claims that the Mini-14 isn't accurate because of barrel heating. Rachael and David shot regularly and she was every bit as good with her Mini-14 as he was with his M1A.

The heavy barrel Mini-14 Target Rifle delivers minute of angle accuracy when tuned using the adjustable harmonic dampener. The Target Rifle's new grey laminated target stock features a wide, flat forend for easy holding or resting on sandbags and a non-slip grooved rubber recoil pad with three spacers to change the length of pull by up to 1½ inches. Like all Ruger Ranch Rifles, the New Target Model comes from the factory set up for scope use with patented Ruger scope bases machined directly into the receiver. A set of stainless steel Ruger scope rings is included free with each Ruger Mini-14 Target Rifle.

She had the Black Hogue stock and a 22" barrel just like David had (22" barrel) on his rifle. Anne and Jennie had the All Weather Mini Ranch rifles with 18½" stainless steel barrels and synthetic stocks. The difference price was about \$200, \$1,035 vs. \$894. Rachael also had some match grade ammo (5.56x45mm Federal Match 69gr BTHP Gold Medal Match) that I doubt David knew about. Plus, Rachel had a Leopold Mark IV scope on her rifle to further confuse the issue. The rifle only had 1 turn in 9" and a heavier bullet would have required a faster twist, say 1 in 7". I'm just surprised that neither Anne nor Jennie insisted on a Mini-14 target rifle. They looked pretty much the same sans the scope and considering the shorter barrel. OK, I'll admit, I'm probably a survivalist because everyone seems to think that survivalists are gun nuts. From my view point I was a gun nut and a prepper.

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“Got a shopping list for Costco? I could pick it after work.”

“Yes, but it a rather short list, we’re running out of space to store things.”

“Do you do an inventory every time we go shopping?”

“I found an easier way John, I just write down what we take off the shelf, when we take it off the shelf, so we can replace it. That’s why we label everything with the purchase date, First in-First out.”

“How come we never have candy bars?”

“I suppose because we don’t buy them. If you want some, add them to the list.”

“Snickers Almond ok?”

“Add a box of Hersey Almond and a box of Kit Cat. What about something for our grandchildren?”

“Plus a box of plain Hersey bars. Ok, I get it tonight. I sure don’t like the looks of the weather, have you heard anything?”

“Heavy and possibly severe thunderstorms are forecast. Take your rain coat.”

It was raining cats and dogs by the time I got off work. The list was really short and I made short work of filling it. Like most impulse buyers, I had a few extra items, but not a lot. I bought more shaving cream, razor blades, Irish Spring and a new ink cartridge for our printer. The moment I got home I grabbed the package of ground round and started on a meat loaf while I divided and packed the remainder and added it to freezer. I filled out date tags for anything perishable.

Back in June, I had a good day surfing on the web. Steve Quale’s website was especially informative and I pulled three articles to read at my leisure.

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June 24, 2008

Hawk

The United States and Russia were nearly at the brink of nuclear war on Friday June 20, 2008 and the world’s populations were unaware of it, save for the listeners of the Q-Files radio program and those in the highest levels of the respective militaries, Intel agencies, and governments involved.

At approximately 4:15 p.m. Eastern Time an urgent report was received from an expert

ham radio operator listening in the clear to US military shortwave channels. A 180 character emergency action message was being broadcast and being repeated over and over again for US military Strategic and Tactical units' reception. Multiple airborne commands were up echoing this message and radio traffic became hot and heavy and all pointing to something very tense going on in the Atlantic region.

This alert was not unexpected, as that morning a Russian diplomat Lavarov had warned the US and Israel not to attack Iranian nuclear facilities and that warning was very specific and the language was very strong but it appears probably misread in its gravity. We also knew that Russian bombers were to be actively patrolling the north Atlantic region and also off Alaska into the Arctic Circle area.

However, this situation continued to escalate in tension and sheer amount of radio traffic so this information was sent to Steve Quayle as he began his radio broadcast the Q-Files on international shortwave and the world wide web to millions of listeners. By then we had confirmed that extensive activity involving Russian bombers and strategic submarine assets was ongoing all over the Atlantic. Continual updates were then forwarded to Steve Quayle on air and he was able to warn his listeners of this threat to the US in near real time. Details of the Alaskan/Arctic/Pacific Russian activities were not known to us.

As this progressed all communications stations... Andrews, Offutt, McClellan, and Puerto Rico were on full alert with at best count , 4 airborne/spaceborne commands up as well to handle the traffic. All code names of course and not to be repeated here. Suffice to say however, the 180 character message was a command message.

Many additional military radio frequencies were activated then to handle all of the traffic and then all of a sudden... the big Russian Cold War radio frequency jammers came on all over the spectrum!

This was a possible signal that an imminent Russian nuclear missile attack from their submarines off the Atlantic coast, Pacific coast, and Gulf coast and from their patrolling bombers was incoming.

Although not confirmed until later that evening by multiple sources, there was a very hasty exodus of high level military, Intel, and govt personnel out of the DC area as they were expecting possible incoming missiles. Exact destinations were not known but of course evacs to Mt Weather, Mt Pony, Site R, and others were probably affected as per plan. It is unknown whether Congress was aware of these events. The Q-Files continued to warn its listeners.

Certainly no air raid sirens sounded for the American people nor did the TV's and radios blare with those emergency sounds... though there is a good argument that they should have sounded. Alas the population has no Civil Defense plan anymore as it was scrapped along with public Civil Defense shelters which had been filled with emergency supplies to assist Americans in surviving thermonuclear war. Russia and China however

do have extensive Civil Defense plans for their major cities and they periodically do drills in their subways and underground shelters for their populace.

Then within minutes, the Russians turned up the power even more on their jammers and then flash traffic was detected on the Russians low frequency submarine communications system at a frequency below 13 kilocycles. At the same time US time broadcasts and maintenance broadcasts on low freqs were stopped in preparation for war footing. The Russian jammers began to cause a lot of trouble with US communications and only hugely powerful skyking messages from Offutt were allowed on the RF which exists as a primary comm System in case satellite communications is taken down by sat killers or exotic space craft.

All this pointed to nuclear guts poker being played by the Russians and the US military and with the current climate of factional fighting within the highest level of the US military/Intel communities/ and government a great deal of concern was felt over what might transpire... whether by too much testosterone or by accident.

Though at approximately 11:12 p.m. eastern a skyking broadcast was made and all radio traffic stopped by the US military with the exception of encrypted bursting not discernible by the ham radio operators (by then we had many Q-Filers with ham radios reporting in confirmation of the RF traffic) and the Russian jammers and low frequency submarine communications below 13 kilocycles all stopped.

Analysis of these events then led us to believe that the DC to Moscow *Hot Line* between the two Presidents of the US and Russia was indeed operational and that hopefully cooler heads would prevail. This at the brink scenario though is of course fraught with all kinds of danger if by nothing else but Murphy's Law.

We did not have long to wait... at approximately 11:26 eastern time we received a highly detailed forward observation report from Steve Quayle himself who along with multiple other witnesses saw in the near sunset sky, a missile take off from the eastern horizon of the sky as viewed from Bozeman Montana. This was a white missile trail clearly seen which appeared to have been launched perhaps from the North Dakota area where the US still has numerous missile sites. The direction of travel was in an arc heading west and the speed was very rapid.

While multiple eyewitnesses were watching the progress of the missile...

Steve Quayle then said that instantly, out of the clear blue, an interceptor craft of some exotic type appeared as if and we quote, "As if some craft came out of cloak and then started to rapidly chase the missile on a parallel track at closing speed." Mr. Quayle then said, "that it was if the missile was instantly vaporized as the interceptor craft closed with it and perhaps used exotic particle beam or pulse weaponry on it which then caused a reddish pink flashing glow in the sky where the missile had been tracking".

Subsequently, just after this was reported to us... radio traffic confirmation of this exotic craft was heard and also reported by a reliable ham radio operator. From our analysis of the radio designator (only thing provided by the ham) a high % confidence was obtained that in fact the interceptor craft was a tango romeo 3-bravo exotic space craft which previously in the early evening had been on space combat patrol over the Atlantic region during the alert.

This TR3-B flown by an ultra-black crew was most likely the interceptor which used its hyperspace capable drive and nearly instantly popped up close to the missile over the Montana skies as seen by the multiple witnesses mentioned above.

These craft and other gravitic ultra craft are known to possess incredible speed from exotic drive systems and to carry a compliment of exotic beam type weapons and nuclear weapons. Their exact capabilities are not known but are thought to include the ability to reach velocities capable of exiting Earth's gravity and also the ability for some to make hyper spatial jumps and to cloak themselves from sight or to project morphing signatures of other objects to hide their true position and shape. However, the Q-Files recently reported that a source had said that it was possible that the Russians had been having some success of using green lasers to detect even these craft. That has not been confirmed at this time but only suspected with perhaps some credibility demonstrated by an event off Norway that will be discussed later.

The real questions here are... was the missile fired by mistake or was it fired after someone ordered it? ... who ordered the firing? ...who ordered that person to commence firing?...who ordered the interception of a US missile by another US military exotic space craft? ....was there a fractional difference of opinion between branches of the military and/or between different power blocks within the US government?

These events we can assure you did have a "Dr Strangelovian" aspect to them and that is ...gravely serious for the population of the US and the world if escalation to all out global thermonuclear war had taken place. Was there unity of command? It appears not. That should be investigated by someone still interested in the Constitution of this great republic which now seems to be taking on characteristics of more factional dictatorship or empire against a newly invigorated old enemy such as the Russians.

That could have been disastrous!

Anyway the stand-off though backed down a hair or two via probable usage of the *Hot Line* continued on into the night and past into the *O' dark thirty hours* when at approximately at 6:24 a.m. Eastern all seemed to be backed off and routine US radio communications returned and the Russian jammers and low frequency sub comms were gone.



## Child of the Cold War – Chapter 4

Continues...

Now at that precise time we began to look for possible match-ups as to the initial cause of this extremely close call ...the best match-up possible is that an aircraft crashed off the Norwegian coast ostensibly on ocean temp surveying operation just about the time when Russian bombers and submarines were maneuvering aggressively in the north Atlantic though what we feel was a good *Cover Story* was released .....our analysis points though not confirmed ...that a TR3-B belonging to MAJIC was shot down probably off the coast of Norway by Russian assets of some variety. The timing of the crash at approximately 4:32 p.m. Eastern just happens to correlate nicely with the timing of the appearance of the 180 character emergency action message from skyking. So, did the Merlin IIIB aircraft mysteriously become the public face of a TR3-B exotic US Military made, MAJIC controlled space craft?

Merlin was a magician now wasn't he?

After the stand-down of Russian and US forces ....Saturday became very quiet on the military frequencies ...we waited however to see just how long it would be before things heated up again.

To note, there was a limited but still capable space combat patrol put back up with air cap and surface and sub patrols as well and America was not defenseless. Full Atlantic space cap was up by Sunday and at approximately mid-day Sunday ...another skyking message came through ...235 characters long!

So, when does this scenario called ...brink of nuclear war ....begin again? The Russians have duly warned that if Iran is attacked by the US and/or Israel that Russia will not take that action too quietly. On Friday they backed up that warning so no one could mistake their diplomatic intentions ever again.

My fellow Americans welcome back to the Cold War almost hot!

The readers can formulate their own questions and draw their own conclusions ...but this is a grave matter and should be known to the American people and those of the world ...let alone the captive and asleep main stream press.

This is meant as a watchman's warning which is the mission of the Q-Files and particularly that of Steve Quayle. It has been done as accurately as possible and confirmed by multiple sources when possible but represents as well speculation and opinion based on long experience and research analysis of geo-political events and historical military perspectives to formulate the best possible analysis.

Take all of this to prayer with the Heavenly Father ...believe it or not? At least you were warned about it!

With much assistance from *River Pirate*, *Weather Watcher*, some hams who are listeners to the Q-Files, and them ole Fandango Rangers ...wherever they may be.

Respectively with the Republic in mind and her glorious Bill of Rights I thank also Lord Jesus Christ for giving the ears to hear and the ability to see.

Hawk ...Guest host on the Thursday Q-Files radio broadcast. 6/23/2008

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LEWISTON, Maine – Air conditioners and emergency supplies could be at a premium this summer, according to weather predictions published in the 2008 edition of the Farmers' Almanac.

Summer officially begins on Friday, June 20 this year – though some calendars mistakenly list the date of the summer solstice on Saturday, June 21 – and the 191-year-old publication is predicting a warmer-than-normal summer across much of the nation, and an extremely active hurricane season.

In addition to the blistering heat, the Farmers' Almanac warns that sections of the Midwest and the Mid-Atlantic could continue to see occasional bouts of very heavy rain, with heavier than normal precipitation also affecting portions of the Plains and Rockies. In contrast, the Pacific Coast is expected to be much drier than normal during the coming summer.

Hurricane season officially started June 1, and the Farmers' Almanac has predicted an active tropical storm season, with the Gulf Coast directly in the crosshairs for hurricanes in mid-July, mid-August, and mid-September. The associated tropical moisture from such systems is likely to flow northward, creating threat of excessive rainfall over many eastern locations. The hurricane season typically peaks around September 10.

After accurately predicting a *two-faced winter*, consisting of colder-than-normal temperatures to the east of the Mississippi and warmer weather to the west, the Farmers' Almanac advised loyal readers that spring would have only one face: a cold, rainy one.

For most sections of the country, Farmers' Almanac weather forecaster Caleb Weatherbee predicted a cold start to spring, including snow flurries across the Great Lakes and Midwest, as well as thunderstorms and squalls for most regions, continuing through April and May into early June.

The Farmers' Almanac also warned of an exceptionally active tornado season in the Midwest. Those predictions were borne out, as heavy flooding ravaged areas along the Mississippi River, and a record-breaking number of deadly twisters – more than 700 in all – descended on the region between February and early May.

Farmers' Almanac forecaster Caleb Weatherbee bases his long-range weather forecasts on a top-secret mathematical and astronomical formula that figures in sunspot activity, tidal action, the position of the planet in relation to the Sun, as well as a number of other factors. Readers of the Farmers' Almanac estimate that its annual weather forecast is accurate between 80 and 85 percent of the time.

And if the summer has you dreaming of winter weather, the 2009 edition of the Farmers' Almanac, which goes on sale on August 28, will reveal a prediction for the upcoming winter and beyond. Weather watchers can keep up to date on upcoming forecasts – for up to two months in advance – or pre-order a copy of the 2009 edition, by visiting

In addition to its famous long-range weather predictions and astronomical data, the Farmers' Almanac also includes countless interesting new articles and annual favorites on ways to live life more resourcefully and more in tune with nature.

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The 100 must have things for survivalists/preppers

1. Generators (Good ones cost dearly. Gas storage, risky. Noisy...target of thieves; maintenance, etc.)
2. Water Filters/Purifiers
3. Portable Toilets (Increasing in price every two months.)
4. Seasoned Firewood (About \$100 per cord; wood takes 6 - 12 mos. to become dried, for home uses.)
5. Lamp Oil, Wicks, Lamps  
(First choice: Buy CLEAR oil. If scarce, stockpile ANY!)
6. Coleman Fuel (URGENT \$2.69-\$3.99/gal. Impossible to stockpile too much.)
7. Guns, Ammunition, Pepper Spray, Knives, Clubs, Bats and Slingshots
8. Hand-Can openers and hand egg beaters, whisks (Life savers!)
9. Honey/Syrups/white, brown sugars
10. Rice – Beans – Wheat (White rice is now \$12.95 - 50# bag. Sam's Club, stock depleted often.)
11. Vegetable oil (for cooking) (Without it food burns/must be boiled, etc.)
12. Charcoal and Lighter fluid (Will become scarce suddenly.)
13. Water containers (Urgent Item to obtain. Any size. Small: HARD CLEAR PLASTIC ONLY)
14. Mini Heater head (Propane) (Without this item, propane won't heat a room.)
15. Grain Grinder (Non-electric)
16. Propane Cylinders
17. Michael Hyatt's Y2K Survival Guide (BEST single y2k handbook for sound advice/tips.)
18. Mantles: Aladdin, Coleman, etc. (Without this item, longer-term lighting is difficult.)
19. Baby Supplies: Diapers/formula/ointments/aspirin, etc.
20. Washboards, Mop Bucket w/wringer (for Laundry)
21. Cook stoves (Propane, Coleman and Kerosene)

22. Vitamins (Critical, due 10 Y2K-forced daily canned food diets.)
23. Propane Cylinder Handle-Holder (Urgent: Small canister use is dangerous without this item.)
24. Feminine Hygiene/Haircare/Skin products
25. Thermal underwear (Tops and bottoms)
26. Bow saws, axes and hatchets and Wedges (also, honing oil)
27. Aluminum foil Reg. and Heavy Duty (Great Cooking and Barter item)
28. Gasoline containers (Plastic or Metal)
29. Garbage bags (Impossible to have too many.)
30. Toilet Paper, Kleenex, paper towel
31. Milk – Powdered and Condensed (Shake liquid every 3 to 4 months.)
32. Garden seeds (Non-hybrid) (A MUST)
33. Clothes pins/line/hangers (A MUST)
34. Coleman's Pump Repair Kit: 1(800) 835-3278
35. Tuna Fish (in oil)
36. Fire extinguishers (or, large box of Baking soda in every room...)
37. First aid kits
38. Batteries (all sizes...buy furthest-out for Expiration Dates)
39. Garlic, spices and vinegar, baking supplies
40. BIG DOGS (and plenty of dog food)
41. Flour, yeast and salt
42. Matches ("Strike Anywhere" preferred. Boxed, wooden matches will go first.)
43. Writing paper/pads/pencils/solar calculators
44. Insulated ice chests (good for keeping items from freezing in Wintertime)
45. Work boots, belts, Levis and durable shirts
46. Flashlights/Light Sticks and torches, "No.76 Dietz" Lanterns
47. Journals, Diaries and Scrapbooks (Jot down ideas, feelings, experiences: Historic times!)
48. Garbage cans Plastic (great for storage, water, transporting - if with wheels)
49. Men's Hygiene: Shampoo, Toothbrush/paste, Mouthwash/floss, nail clippers, etc
50. Cast iron cookware (sturdy, efficient)
51. Fishing supplies/tools
52. Mosquito coils/repellent sprays/creams
53. Duct tape
54. Tarps/stakes/twine/nails/rope/spikes
55. Candles
56. Laundry detergent (Liquid)
57. Backpacks and Duffle bags
58. Garden tools and supplies
59. Scissors, fabrics and sewing supplies
60. Canned Fruits, Veggies, Soups, stews, etc.
61. Bleach (plain, NOT scented: 4 to 6% sodium hypochlorite)
62. Canning supplies (Jars/lids/wax)
63. Knives and Sharpening tools: files, stones, steel
64. Bicycles...Tires/tubes/pumps/chains, etc.
65. Sleeping bags and blankets/pillows/mats

66. Carbon Monoxide Alarm (battery powered)
67. Board Games Cards, Dice
68. d-Con Rat poison, MOUSE PRUFE II, Roach Killer
69. Mousetraps, Ant traps and cockroach magnets
70. Paper plates/cups/utensils (stock up, folks...)
71. Baby Wipes, oils, waterless and Anti-bacterial soap (saves a lot of water)
72. Rain gear, rubberized boots, etc.
73. Shaving supplies (razors and creams, talc, after shave)
74. Hand pumps and siphons (for water and for fuels)
75. Soy sauce, vinegar, bouillons/gravy/soup base
76. Reading glasses
77. Chocolate/Cocoa/Tang/Punch (water enhancers)
78. "Survival-in-a-Can"
79. Woolen clothing, scarves/ear-muffs/mittens
80. BSA – New 1998 – Boy Scout Handbook (also, Leader's Catalog)
81. Roll-on Window Insulation Kit (MANCO)
82. Graham crackers, saltines, pretzels, Trail mix/Jerky
83. Popcorn, Peanut Butter, Nuts
84. Socks, Underwear, T-shirts, etc. (extras)
85. Lumber (all types)
86. Wagons and carts (for transport to and from open Flea markets)
87. Cots and Inflatable Mattresses (for extra guests)
88. Gloves: Work/warming/gardening, etc.
89. Lantern Hangers
90. Screen Patches, glue, nails, screws, nuts and bolts
91. Teas
92. Coffee
93. Cigarettes
94. Wine/Liquors (for bribes, medicinal, etc.)
95. Paraffin wax
96. Glue, nails, nuts, bolts, screws, etc.
97. Chewing gum/candies
98. Atomizers (for cooling/bathing)
99. Hats and cotton neckerchiefs
100. Goats/chickens

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The TR-3A Black Manta is reputedly a US Air Force spy plane. It is allegedly a black program, and its existence is officially denied.

The TR-3A is claimed to be a subsonic stealth spy plane with a flying wing design of some sort. It was alleged to have been used in the Gulf War to provide laser designation for F-117A Nighthawk fighters (attack bombers), for targeting to use with laser-guided bombs. The TR-3A is supposedly manufactured by Northrop Grumman.

Because there is no hard evidence of the involvement of any other stealth aircraft in the Gulf War, another hypothesis has arisen. This holds that whatever vehicle has been identified as the "TR-3" is nothing more than a prototype for the B-2 Spirit stealth bomber.

Global Security says:

#### X-44 MANTA Multi-Axis No-Tail Aircraft

The X-44 designation is said to be reserved for possible NASA full-scale manned tailless flight control demonstrator. The X-44A has been referred to as the MANTA, or Multi-Axis No-Tail Aircraft. A conceptual drawing of an X-44 is said to resemble a tailless F-22, and is said to be based on an F-22 airframe, engines and systems. The X-44A thrust-vectoring test aircraft would have pitch/yaw vectoring nozzles and would not only be tailless but would have no moveable aerodynamic surfaces.

The X-44 MANTA is a converted delta-winged F-22 which uses vectored thrust as its sole means of control. The plan is to convert an F-22 so that it uses its thrust vectoring nozzles for its flight control, without rudders, stabilators, or ailerons. MANTA could be used to validate the platform for the FB-22. MANTA flights could begin by 2006. Thrust vectoring – the ability to turn the jet exhaust – allows an aircraft to create forces with its motors similar to the forces created by aerodynamic surfaces such as flaps, rudders & stabilators. The result would be a structurally simple, light airframe, with increased fuel volume and fewer gaps to cause stealth problems. An X-44A feasibility study is in progress, with a team including AFRL, NASA, Lockheed Martin and Pratt & Whitney.

The X-44A is unlikely to fly before 2007, though the F-22 program will retire the first and second flying prototypes in 2001-02.

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You never know when you're going to need a bomb shelter; we almost needed one on June 20<sup>th</sup>. The bomb shelter should be supplied with food, water, a means of defense, radiation detection equipment and toilet paper. See Stan's list for more stuff. I recalled that TOM had written a story titled *The Cold War* wherein he contended that the Cold War never ended it just changed character.

I up and sent him a message because I wanted one of those seven\_ten\_rule.xls spreadsheets, to know if he really had the guns he described in his stories and what his thoughts were on Steve Quayle's posts. He answered, "Want the serial numbers? By God I'm getting tired of being doubted! Spreadsheet attached. The Cold War never ended, but I'm not sure about that piece you gave me the link to. For one thing, it's all caps and hard to read. That stuff was right out of the UFO Hunters on the History Channel. /s/ TOM"

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The Strategic Missile Forces will speed up the commissioning of Topol-M missiles and have 11 missile complexes at the ready by the end of the year. Two of them will be stationary, and the remaining missiles will be mobile, according to ARM-TASS, which cited chief of the missile forces Gen. Col. Nikolay Solovtsov.

The stationary launch facilities will be located at the 60th Missile Division in Tatishchevo, Saratov Region. They will bring the total of stationary launch facilities to 50.

Topol-M complexes are equipped with improved RS-2PM2 intercontinental ballistic missiles with split warheads that make them practically impossible to intercept. They have a range of 10,000 km.

The spreadsheet was easy to use, insert the peak radiation level in Rads and it revealed when the radiation level should reach 104mR, the maximum 'safe' level to remain out of the shelter. I read several of his stories and he seemed to think that you should wait until it was down 50mR, to avoid cancer. I also learned that the thyroid ceases to function in older people and KIO<sub>3</sub> might not do them any good. That said, why take the chance?

When I considered all that I'd read on Q-Files and other sources, I suggested that Anne and I recheck our preps. I had a hinky feeling that I could not explain and we still had a little cash to fill in holes. I suppose I could have bought the Barrett rifle, but I didn't want one bad enough to sell off the gold. Who was to say whether precious metals would have any value in a post-TSHTF situation? It was like the oft asked question; would you rather have it and not need it or need it and not have it? Maybe I could save up for a cheaper .50-caliber rifle. For example, the Armalite AR-50A1 was only \$3,359 plus scope, bag and ammo.

I went back to my computer and searched the web. I found Arms Auction and they had an AR-50A1 NIB with a buy it now price of \$2,759.98 so I bought it. And then, I ordered a Leupold Mark IV 6.5-20x50mm LR/T M1 and 800-rounds of ammo. By the time I was done, I had a .50-caliber rifle, single shot, with a scope and the amount of ammo I had discussed with Anne. The dealer I used, Smith, only charged me \$50 to handle the transaction on this end. Anne had said I could buy one if I wanted one and I didn't expect any trouble.

Site R is actually called Raven Rock Mountain Complex and it's located in Pennsylvania, a short way from Camp David; Mt Pony was a defense site at one time; however In 1997 Congress approved the transfer of the bunker from the Federal Reserve Bank in Richmond to the Library of Congress, to be used as a central repository for the library's 150,000 film titles. Most of the staff of Cheyenne Mountain now works at Vandenberg AFB or Anderson AFB. Strange, he didn't mention the Greenbrier; probably because Congress critters don't like bunk beds.

He did say that only select individuals were warned and allowed as how he didn't know if that included Congress. I recalled him talking about the Starship Enterprise zapping the Minuteman III with its phasers. That's mainly where he lost me, it was simply too much of a stretch. Ok people, we've been warned and put on notice that we're only a heartbeat away from global thermonuclear war. If the event he related actually occurred we had to be at DEFCON ONE, beating out the Cuban Missile Crisis by one level. At best, Des Moines might be a secondary target. The closest Top 101 cities were Kansas City, Omaha, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Lincoln (NB), Madison (WI), Chicago and St. Louis. Our main concern would be Lincoln and Omaha.

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Obama said McCain was lying. McCain claimed Obama was lying. I just assumed that both men were right. I've always suspected that one definition of a liar is *a Politian*. The other definitions are *a Lawyer* and *a Reporter*. We simply couldn't have WW III now, we're having elections on November 4<sup>th</sup> to elect a new President, replace the House and 1/3 of the Senate.

We had finally found an area where we could shoot our rifles out to a range of 600-meters. We practiced often with our battle rifles, those M1As and the Mini-14s. I finally got up the courage to take out my AR-50A1 and sight it in. Smith had mounted the scope and used a laser bore sight to give me a tentative sighting in. This was a long range rifle, but I started at 200-yards, tweaked it, went to 300, tweaked it again and move to 600 where I made one final, minor adjustment. After that, I worked my way back to 200-yards and was getting MOA groups or better. When I finished up, both John and David fired a few rounds and David was, by far, the better shooter.

"Did you have a good day shooting?"

"Working on being able to hit targets well out to 600 meters with my M1A using only iron sights. It's progressing, but I'll need more practice. I worked the .50 out from 200-yards to 600-yards and back in. It's well sighted in and I really like the zoom feature on the scope. Out of all of us, David shot the best, even with my new .50. I was at Global Security last night looking at information about .50 caliber ammo. They have one round called the Mk 211 MP that sounds like a winner. That's the one I told you would cost \$207.50 a round plus tax. Sure wish I could get my hands on a few cans of that. But I can't so I'm going to check around for M903 SLAP ammo because it should be legal."

"SLAP?"

"Sabot Light Armor Piercing. It's a tradeoff; immediately upon leaving the muzzle, the sabot is stripped from the cartridge by centrifugal force and to a lesser extent air resistance leaving the penetrator free of the sabot to traverse toward the target. The advantage of the sabot armor-piercing cartridge over the non-sabot armor-piercing cartridge is greater velocity. The disadvantage is less long-distance accuracy."



“If it’s a sniper rifle, hadn’t you better go for distance than velocity?”

“Maybe, it would pierce thicker armor, so I might want a few rounds for anti-material uses. You know, due to certain target effects of the Mk 211, the Army is also working on a match grade .50-caliber ball ammunition specialized antipersonnel round for the M107, designated as the XM1022 long range tactical sniper cartridge. The idea is to match the ballistics of the Mk211 in the new XM1022 round. I searched the web and found out that The .50 Caliber M1022 has an olive green bullet coating with no tip ID coloration. The projectile is of standard ball design. It is designed for long-range sniper training and tactical use against targets that do not require armor piercing or incendiary effect. It exhibits superior long range accuracy and its trajectory matched to Mk 211 grade A. The M1022 is ideal for use in all .50 Caliber bolt action and semi-automatic sniper platforms.”

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Iran could build a nuclear bomb in as little as six months if it withdrew from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and banned international inspectors, International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei said in an interview last week.

The United States and other Western powers have expressed concern about Iranian activities that could enable it to build a nuclear bomb. Iran insists that its nuclear program, including its controversial acquisition of uranium enrichment centrifuges, is aimed only at generating electricity.

“If Iran wants to turn to the production of nuclear weapons, it must leave the NPT, expel the IAEA inspectors, and then it would need, considering the number of centrifuges and the quantity of uranium Iran has ... at least six months to one year,” ElBaradei told al-Arabiya television, according to CBS News.

“Therefore, Iran will not be able to reach the point where we would wake up one morning to an Iran with a nuclear weapon,” he said.

ElBaradei said the six-month period would be necessary for Iran to build a weapon capable of detonating fissile material and to produce enough highly enriched uranium to use in the bomb.

Meanwhile, an adviser to the Israeli National Security Council said yesterday that Syria had planned to supply Iran with spent fuel produced at an alleged nuclear facility destroyed by Israel last September, the London Guardian reported.

“The idea was that the Syrians produce plutonium and the Iranians get their share. Syria had no reprocessing facility for the spent fuel. It’s not deduction alone that brings almost everyone to think that the link exists,” the adviser said.

IAEA officials are wrapping up an inspection of the Syrian site, which Damascus denies housed any nuclear equipment.

Elsewhere, Western nations have threatened to end support for Iran's counternarcotics operations if Tehran refuses to stop uranium enrichment activities, the Associated Press reported.

Antonio Maria Costa, head of the UN Drugs and Crime Office, warned that Europe could experience a *heroin tsunami* if aid is cut for the Iranian forces that fight drug smuggling along the country's border with Afghanistan.

"We should definitely assist Iran in this respect," he said.

The European Union yesterday identified the 15 individuals and 20 businesses black-listed this week for their ties to Iran's nuclear and missile programs. The sanctioned Iranians individuals include Defense Ministry officials, Revolutionary Guards chief Gen. Mohammad Ali Jafari and Atomic Energy Organization leader Gholamreza Aghazadeh.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad yesterday called for creating a special tribunal to hold world powers accountable for pressuring Iran to halt its controversial nuclear work.

Speaking to a group of judges, Ahmadinejad said *a court should be formed to try and punish all world criminals who invade the rights of the Iranian nation.*

We were all worried about a nuclear war and didn't consider the other possibilities, very much. We had precautions, you might say, a case of N-95 masks and several boxes of nitrite exam gloves. We also had a few 3M 1860S Small Health Care Mask (1 box/20) and quite a few of the 3M 1860 N95 Healthcare Mask (6 Boxes of 20 each); that's how they come, not how many we had.

Were it that simple, we would have been happy. The Government was so damned busy watching for nuclear weapons being slipped through our ports that they missed several small vials of weaponized Ebola Virus. By several, my best guess would be anywhere up to 200. They were probably packed in a box with a label that indicated some sort of FDA approved drug. Or maybe not; I don't know and it doesn't matter.

## Child of the Cold War – Chapter 5

Ebola had been limited to Africa except for the Reston outbreak in the US that only killed monkeys. That one came from the Philippines. I looked at Wiki and found out that Ebola viruses are morphologically similar to the Marburg virus, also in the family Filoviridae, and share similar disease symptoms. These are what they call hemorrhagic fever. The first reported outbreaks were in Zaire and Sudan. Those were followed by Reston and it was followed by an outbreak in the Ivory Coast and finally by an outbreak in Uganda.

Ebola was found to be not airborne. Because Ebola is lethal and since no approved vaccine or treatment is available, Ebola is classified as a Biosafety Level 4 agent, as well as a Category A bioterrorism agent and a select agent by the CDC.

Ebola shows potential as a biological weapon because of its lethality, but, due to its relatively short incubation period, it may be more difficult to spread since it may kill its victim before it has a chance to be transmitted, meaning that it would be hard to spread amongst small populations. However, if an outbreak occurred in a city the effects would likely be devastating.

As a terrorist weapon, Ebola has been considered by members of Japan's Aum Shinrikyo cult, whose leader, Shoko Asahara led about 40 members to Zaire in 1992 under the guise of offering medical aid to Ebola victims in what was presumably an attempt to acquire a sample of the virus.

No person in their right mind would even consider releasing a weaponized version of the Ebola virus, unless ...they found a vaccine that worked. The CDC had been unable to produce such a vaccine and they're the best, right? They could protect monkeys but so far no human vaccine was successful, according to Wiki.

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"Have you tested it carefully?"

"Yes, yes it works, 95% of the time. It's a yearly vaccination and while it doesn't prevent you from contracting the virus; it dramatically alters its effects. It has been tested on 100 subjects, 95 of whom who lived and five who died due to other complications. They should not have been in the test group and may have distorted the results."

"Have all of our people been vaccinated?"

"All but you."

"Did anyone get sick from the vaccination?"

“A few had a sore spot and a mild fever that lasted less than 24 hours. I, myself, have been vaccinated and it’s safe.”

“Vaccinate me please.”

“As you wish.”

“I really hate injections. Tell me, has the delivery been made?”

“It cleared US customs without difficulty and was intercepted enroute to its point of destination. We only had 100 vials, but since it’s airborne and we plan to release it in airports using atomizers. It will get incoming and outgoing passengers plus people but passing through.”

“How can we be sure the people of this region won’t be affected?”

“I’ve spoken to other Health Ministers and we’ve set up a mandatory immunization program. Some countries are fully protected and in less than a month, those programs will be complete. Our operatives can settle in and wait until you give the order. We stole an idea from an American movie and the activation message will be, *John has a long moustache*. We will broadcast it by shortwave radio and back that up with email messages.”

“Excellent, when the vaccinations are complete, order the release of the virus.”

◦

Certain airports, Kennedy, Newark, Philadelphia, O’Hare, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Boston, Atlanta, well, you know the names probably better than I do, serve as connecting points and or hubs. Were someone to release a virus in several of those airports simultaneously, it would be nearly impossible to check the spread of the virus. The CDC would easily identify the virus, in a matter of hours. In those few, short hours, the virus would be widespread and probably in every country in the world. It could happen so rapidly that before the CDC could issue warnings, it would be too late.

Most of humanity would die. Those who survived were either isolated or vaccinated. Because of the AIDS virus and other health risks, Iowa Methodist Medical Center went out of its way to protect its employees, as did the majority of Des Moines Hospitals, as did a majority of hospitals, period.

“Honey, this is Anne.”

“Hi, how’s the day going?”

“Not good. We’ve gotten an unusually high number of people in complaining of fever, vomiting, diarrhea, generalized pain or malaise. We’re taking all precautions plus a few

extra. All of the other hospitals, Mercy, Lutheran, Metropolitan, and Broadlawns are experiencing the same to a greater or lesser extent. The Chief of Staff contacted the CDC and they're sending someone in on a government jet. Apparently, this is widespread. I called because I think you should talk to the manager and shut down the warehouse until this thing gets sorted out."

"You might be right Anne; he'll be hard to convince, but I'll do my best."

"Just tell him that if this is what the doctors seem to think it is the store won't be allowed to open tomorrow."

"Can you give me a hint?"

"Viral hemorrhagic fever, but please don't tell him that, it could create a panic. If they're right it will create a panic when the news gets out."

"What about you?"

"I rode with you, remember? I'll be off at the usual time. I'd advise you to close up and wait at the store until it's time to pick me up."

"Ok, I'll see you at the usual time. Be careful."

The store is located just off I-35 on Mills Civic Parkway. I generally jump on I-235 and take that downtown and get off for Keo Way for the hospital. I usually allowed plenty of time although traffic was mostly oncoming late in the day. I spoke with the manager and at first he wasn't convinced. I suggested that if he didn't believe me about a major problem, he should call the hospitals and find out for himself. He agreed to call one, but not Methodist. He called Mercy. Mercy was worse off than Methodist so he called Lutheran and found out the same thing.

"We're closing down, no new members in and try to rush up those that are still shopping. If any of you need anything, this might be the time. I'm willing to extend limited credit against your next paycheck, but no more than 20% and I'm sure that I'll get a butt chewing for that."

Not that I needed to, but I headed to the meat counter and began to add things to my cart including butter, bacon, lunch meat, chicken, pork loins, beef roasts, eggs and finally hams. I had cash with me and didn't need a loan. Once the store was closed down and we'd all been run through the check stands, I loaded my purchases into the Igloo 165 quart MaxCool ice chest in the back of the car. It's so darned big, that I usually just leave it in the back seat.

It was about an hour until Anne got off so I slowly headed towards Methodist Hospital, generally taking my time. I got there about 20 minutes early and called the kids on their cell phones and related what Anne had told me. I suggested that it might be a good idea

to circle the wagons while we waited this one out and knew what the illness was. John said he'd get Jennie and the kids and be on time for supper. David said he'd heard and was just about to leave work. Rachael was home, because it was in-school service day that finished up early. I filled her in and suggested she find those N-95 masks and gloves, just in case.

o

"Hi, long day?"

"You have no idea; it only got worse after I called you. They wanted me to stay on, but I refused which is most unlike me."

"I called the kids and filled them in. John, Jen and the kids will be there for supper."

"I didn't take anything out."

"The cooler is more than half full of extra meat. It wouldn't be a problem to heat up a ham would it?"

"What else did you get?"

"I got butter, bacon, lunch meat, chicken, pork loins, beef roasts, hams and eggs."

"How about bacon and eggs for supper?"

"I'll eat whatever you fix. Can you tell me anymore about the illness?"

"If it is Ebola, the death rate will depend on the sub-strain. Zaire is about 88%, Sudan is around 54% and the Bundibugyo around 25%. Understand something, in a modern hospital with appropriate sanitary procedures and disposable syringes, the danger is reduced. Universal precautions are the infection control techniques that were recommended following the AIDS outbreak in the 1980s. Essentially it means that every patient is treated as if they are infected and therefore precautions are taken to minimize risk. Essentially, universal precautions are good hygiene habits, such as hand washing and the use of gloves and other barriers, correct sharps handling, and aseptic techniques. Additional precautions are used in addition to universal precautions for patients who are known or suspected to have an infectious condition, and vary depending on the infection control needs of that patient. Additional precautions are not needed for blood-borne infections, unless there are complicating factors."

"Isn't Ebola only spread by contact?"

"That's the current understanding. It is also puzzling because a great number of the patients had no contact with one another. About the only thing they had in common was either being at the Des Moines airport or related to someone else who was through the

Des Moines airport. The doctors seem to think that could be the common denominator, the locus if you will, although it's not universally accepted."

"I told Rachael to dig out those masks and gloves. The surest defense against something like this is isolation, isn't it?"

"Yes, of course, why?"

"I'm going to strongly suggest and may even insist that no one go to work for a few days while we wait for this to play out."

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*My fellow Americans,*

*The Centers for Disease Control had advised of an outbreak of Ebola virus. The outbreak is widespread and affects more than our country, however, it appears to have broken out here first. Ebola is classified as a Category A bioterrorism agent. Every indication is that we have been attacked using a weaponized form of the Ebola virus.*

*The strain appears to be Ebola Sudan which has a fatality rate of slightly over 50%. There is no known effective vaccine for humans. Continuing efforts are underway to try and find a vaccine. However, that may be too late.*

*Therefore, I am ordering the immediate quarantine of all persons in this country in their place of residence. The homeless will be provided shelter by their local, state and municipal governments. For those among us who lack sufficient food for an extended quarantine, each state Governor is making arrangements for their National Guard force to deliver food. An 800 number will be established for each state to coordinate the response.*

*Only the most critically ill should consider going to a hospital. Due to the acute shortage of hospital beds, other care facilities may be set up in different venues, like gymnasiums.*

*If indeed this was a terrorist attack, we will find out who attacked us and deal with them harshly. I assure you that those who would choose to use a weapon of mass destruction against us will receive the same treatment.*

*Good night and God Bless America*

"He looked really worked up."

"Well, at least he isn't setting up FEMA Camps."

“FEMA was right there this spring when we had the flooding. I read someone said they were doing a heck of a job.”

“They’ve had 3 years to practice. What do you think dad, should we stay here or go home and stay there?”

“I believe that it would be better if you chose to stay here. First, he ordered everyone to remain quarantined and second, we’re probably better prepared than you are for the long term.”

“I thought you might say that so we packed bags and brought the essentials.”

“I’ve heard firearms called many things, but never essentials. They may turn out to be, who knows.”

You saw the picture of the guy in Iowa in June with the gun pointed at him? He got arrested. The Iowa cops had strike teams that broke into locked homes. It wasn’t FEMA that screwed up, it was the Iowa cops who forgot about the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment. These are the same people who get to determine whether or not they MAY ISSUE a CCW to you. Doesn’t it make you feel all warm and bubbly inside? We’re ok until we get a different Sheriff; a little addition to his campaign fund every year worked wonders. I’m beginning to suspect that everyone in Story County with a non-professional CCW is a campaign contributor.

It was agreed before the night was out that 1. No member of our family, including the in-laws, was going anywhere and, 2. We were going to maintain a night watch, just in case. George sounded worried on TV and it occurred to me that he should be. First, every sign seemed to indicate that the virus started in the US and spread out to the other countries via airplanes. Second, neither Russia nor China was allowing any planes to enter their air space. Furthermore, planes that had entered before the word got out were refueled on the runways and sent back to their point of origin. Only one flight had arrived before the announcement and they had located all of the passengers, determined that they weren’t sick and if they were Russians got shipped on home by Aeroflot.

Don’t know which is worse, having the Ebola or flying on Aeroflot. That’s all past, most of their fleet is Boeing or Airbus and by 2014, the entire fleet will be made up of foreign built aircraft. That’s all that oil money they now have. Don’t believe they’re really capitalists, but they’re learning. I’m hoping that the Russians and Chinese don’t blame us for the Ebola, it was clearly an attack. Just you wait, in about two weeks the conspiracy theorists will start up with George having done it. He’s been busy, blowing up the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, telling lies to start wars with Afghanistan and Iraq, telling Brownie he was doing one heck of a job, hiding the VP at Site R, spending more money than the government takes in and failing to solve the immigration crisis. Worse, he pushed the No Child Left Behind program and we found out that our kids were more stupid than we thought.



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“How long is this going to take?”

“Well, the incubation period of the Ebola virus is can be anywhere from 2 to 21 days, but is generally between 5 and 10 days. It takes about 14 days to run its course. Maybe 5 weeks tops. In the early stages, Ebola may not be highly contagious. Contact with someone in early stages may not even transmit the disease. As the illness progresses, bodily fluids from diarrhea, vomiting, and bleeding represent an extreme biohazard.”

“If we assume an engineered virus, doesn’t that mean that whoever engineered it probably has a vaccine?”

“I wouldn’t release a virus unless I could protect myself.”

“That ought to make it easy to track down the culprit; all we have to do is look for a large population of uninfected people.”

“Right and we need a series of tests to determine if it’s some sort of natural immunity or a vaccine.”

“What fool would that do?”

“If it’s a vaccine, they may have more and we should be able to reproduce it.”

“And, in the meantime half the world’s population dies?”

“I simply don’t know honey, possibly.”

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If that weren’t bad enough, Iran started its own saber rattling in response to Israel’s earlier operation off the shore of Greece. EIBaradei said the six-month period would be necessary for Iran to build a weapon capable of detonating fissile material and to produce enough highly enriched uranium to use in the bomb. That would probably be a Little Boy style weapon with plutonium weapons to follow.

Although the store was closed and wasn’t getting deliveries, I discussed it with the boys and we decided to go shopping. Three vehicles worth of food would cover what we ate during the quarantine. I had the key to the store and could shut off the alarm system. The meat department had put leftover meat into a freezer; so we started with that and used a calculator to keep a running total. Among the three of us, we had \$4,000 in cash and it was the last of our cash.

“The cooler is full, but there is still meat available.”

“Three aisles down on your right you’ll find another cooler.”

We filled three coolers including one that only held butter, cheese and eggs. The rest was just the usual stuff, baking mixes, shortening, oil, spices, vegetables, fruit, Folgers, tea, cereal, bread (it was still soft to the touch) canned dinners like chili *ad infinitum*. We rang it up and came to just over a shade over four grand. We put the list we’d made and the cash in the safe with a note to the manager that said “I guess I needed the loan after all.” We included every single item we now had in the vehicles.

“Why did we take bottled water since you have a well?”

“For any traveling we might have to do.”

“Traveling? You said we were going to quarantine ourselves and not go out.”

“I did say that. There’s one hell of a lot of gangbangers in the east university area. Tough part of town and it wouldn’t be the first time trouble broke out there. Anne drove through there one night with you in the car. There was racial unrest over something and the bridge she normally crossed was down. Two huge black guys stepped out in front of her and tried to stop her. She put the pedal to the metal and left them scrambling for their lives. Back in those days gangbangers didn’t carry many guns. A situation may arise that forces us to enter either Ames or Des Moines, possibly for medical care. We’ll probably use the same strategy, except we’ll be armed.”

“These N-95 masks are pretty flimsy.”

“They’re single use disposable masks. We also had those gas masks with the CBRN filters and three Tyvek suits. You might get one or two wearing’s out of the suits, but they are cheap and won’t last forever.”

“Got all the bases covered then.”

“I wish. I’m not an electrician, plumber, carpenter nor anything other than a man who works at Costco to earn a living. Everything I know is geared to merchandizing and inventory maintenance. I can shoot firearms modestly well and if anything, that’s my greatest claim to fame.”

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“But you can garden can’t you?”

“It’s been a while; but I think I can manage. Buried somewhere in those preps are a collection of heirloom seeds that you can plant and harvest seed from for the next year’s crops. That’s more your mother’s area of expertise, she planted a garden every year until she returned to work. You should remember that, she had you pulling weeds.”

“I remember, thinning the onions for green onions, hoe in between the plants, rototill the aisles in between the rows of plants and pick green beans to can and cucumbers for pickles. Later it was carrots, beets, peppers plus tomatoes for most of the year.”

“You left off the fall harvest, acorn squash, butternut squash, melons, digging potatoes and harvesting the popcorn. Rachael and you were a big help.”

“Will we be growing most of our food again?”

“Probably not; we have several years’ worth of food supplies. About the only thing I can think of that might change that would be a nuclear war.”

I finally downloaded the *Heller* decision to my computer so I could have time to read and try to understand it. As I read through it, I was both pleased and displeased. It seemed to suggest that may issue provisions were suspect. The right was clearly one of those inalienable rights, an individual right. They relied on *Miller* rather than overturning it. They didn’t overturn the GCA of ’68 or the FOIA of ’86, but mainly because the question of their Constitutionality wasn’t before the Court. The court limits its opinions to the issue before it. It was a start, but would be years before the questions were all resolved.

Meanwhile, because the US had been the source of the world wide pandemic, many assumed that the US had developed a bioweapon and it simply got away from them. Accusations began to fly. The CIA with its usual plodding progress took some time to discover which countries were unaffected by the virus. Even then, some got it and died, but the ratio of the living to the dead was grossly disproportionate. They laid it all out for the President and he contacted the Russians and Chinese, imploring them to use their own spies to verify what the CIA had learned.

Both powers apparently did so, but the issue remained unresolved, what to do about it because both China and Russia had treaties with those involved. After long debate with his cabinet, advisors, the remaining senior members of Congress, the President ordered the entire remaining fleet of B-2 Spirit bombers loaded with full loads of 16 B-61 and/or B-83 bombs, some to open up targets and others to blow them to kingdom come. They agreed that releasing the Ebola constituted a first strike and our strike was only retaliation.

Russia and China, having treaties with the countries involved, did not agree. In fact they considered our actions to be a first strike against their allies. Bush had anticipated this and went on the EAS to announce we were taking reprisals against the countries that infected us with the Ebola. He went on to warn of the possibility that either Russia or China and possibly both might disagree and attack the US. We had several hours to take shelter, providing we could do so without breaking quarantine. We wondered aloud how many other people found them to be in the same position as we were. We had everything we needed, including a shelter. The flying time to and from the Middle East must be in the range of 40 some hours.

The hospital called several times wanting Anne to return. She declined, citing the quarantine. My boss called and said he got the note and money and would cover the balance with a loan but wondered whether we should reopen the store. I told him he could if he wanted, but I wouldn't be in, because of the quarantine.

Assuming that Ebola took half the population and Russia and China attacked, how many people would that leave? My guess, and it was nothing more than a guess, was in the vicinity of 75 million, give or take. Probably less after the fallout took its toll. Somewhere in the area of 35 million alive when it was all said and done and that didn't include people who would later die from cancer.

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"We'd better check out the shelter and make sure we have everything we need down there for a 100 day stay."

"100 days?"

"If our peak radiation level is high enough, it might take at least 2,401 hours to reach a safe level. Theoretically, it could get so high that we'd have to stay down there for 14,000 hours or 700 days."

"In that cramped little shelter?"

"Yep."

"We'll all go stark raving crazy."

"Probably."

"It won't be healthy having this many people crammed in that shelter for two years."

"Well, we won't contract the Ebola, there's something to be said for that."

"We probably wouldn't have contracted Ebola anyway, not with us following the quarantine guidelines. It's your fault John; you said that we wouldn't be growing our own food again unless there was a nuclear war. You got your wish, as soon as we drop nukes on the so called guilty party, Russia and China will retaliate and then we'll retaliate on them and that will start a nuclear winter that could last for ten years."

"You're just upset honey. There's no way that Bush heard the offhand comment I made to John. That's the most unlikely conspiracy theory I've ever heard."

## Child of the Cold War – Chapter 6

Our B-2 Spirit stealth bombers did what they were designed to do, sneak in, drop their weapons and return home. It was anybody's guess where home might end up being, I was certain that Whiteman AFB would be high on the enemy's list of strike targets. There were airborne tankers put up and the B-2s refueled until they landed on a lake in Nevada called Groom Lake (Area 51). We didn't know that of course, at the time. We were busy securing our food in the shelter, enough for two years, just in case.

What was left of the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches of government had more than enough time to take shelter, quarantine or not. It didn't feel right, the President had said during his announcement that we were all in this together. I'm not in the shelter he's in and if we didn't already happen to have a shelter that came with the place when we bought it, we probably still wouldn't. Any guilt I had previously felt about the AR-50A1 vanished in an instant and I began scheming to acquire some Mk 211 MP; after we got out of the shelter, that is.

I knew where to look, Camp Dodge. That's the HQ of the Iowa National Guard and is on the northwest side of Des Moines, actually Johnston. It abuts Saylorville Reservoir on the east and has all sorts of amenities, golf courses, lots of things. Do you want a dose of incongruity? Here I sat in a damned bomb shelter, having felt no earthquakes, watching my CD V-717 and writing this crap all down for posterity.

It might be important because it may be my grandchildren and great grandchildren who restore this great nation. In a way, the attacks were positive, but only insofar as they wiped the slate clean and allowed us to start over. I didn't realize the effect all of those bombs had on the country and wouldn't know until some hams got on the air and started talking. It would only be later that we learned that the nukes dropped on San Francisco triggered the San Andreas. Not a 10.5, but about 9.5, bad enough. A few mountains in the Cascade chain began to smoke and were expected to erupt, but hadn't. One off course warhead went off over Yellowstone. It was Chinese, 2mT, probably launched on one of those DF-41s (a guess).

I'm getting ahead of myself, we only learned those things later. All in all, it was strange that WW III had resulted because the US had made a first strike against certain Middle East countries and we had been retaliated against by China and Russia, who we then retaliated against. It's not supposed to go down that way; we're supposed to be the good guys, not the ones that start the war.

However, if you bought the logic that the Ebola was the first attack, then our attack was simple retaliation with us using bombs instead of troops. A long time ago, I decided that you couldn't maintain an inventory of nuclear weapons and never use them. They are expensive to build and more expensive to maintain. You have people sending nuclear triggers to Taiwan and nuclear cruise missiles to Barksdale. And if someone actually launched a missile on June 20<sup>th</sup>, why haven't the MSM reported that?

We spent Election Day in the shelter. We were still there on Thanksgiving, but Anne and I, being older, had risked going out when the spreadsheet said we could, the first part of December. The spreadsheet was pretty damned close, 90mR. It was late in the year and cold. It's generally cold in early December, but not as cold as it was this time. The sky was an off color, a grayish brown. The snow on the ground even looked dirty. We didn't stay out long because, well, we got cold.

o

"If the radiation level is safe, why shouldn't we go out?"

"The way I understand it is that while you won't get radiation sickness, you could develop cancer or it might affect your ability to reproduce."

"You mean that we couldn't have children?"

"Exactly."

"Sort of a radiological vasectomy?"

"It would affect both parties, but the male's worse."

"How do you know?"

"Research on Wiki, back when we still had the internet."

"There are four categories of patients who present," Anne said. "First the injured and possibly contaminated, second, the uninjured and possibly contaminated, third, the injured and unexposed and fourth, the uninjured and unexposed. We had some training at Methodist and all of us are in the last group, uninjured and unexposed."

"Mom, what about the accumulated radiation? Won't that be a problem?"

"It could be; that depends upon how much you accumulate. I should think that none of us would want to accumulate a total of over 150 Rem. Let's look at that spreadsheet your father has Rachael. Do you see where the spreadsheet has been modified in the last column? You dad added a column to determine the accumulated dose. You delete the contents of the cell immediately above the row where you go out of the shelter. The column shows that if you wait to go out when the radiation dose is exactly 104mR, your maximum total exposure, like if we had a peak level of 330R, will be 122R, over a lifetime. That's because the radiation continues to decay."

"English, mom."

"If you go out when the outside level is 104mR per hour, your lifetime dose would be 122 Rem. Your father and I agree that you should wait until the level is half the maxi-

mum non-lethal dose or about 52mR per hour. That will limit your lifetime exposure to about 61Rem. That may be pushing it, but why take the chance? Besides, there's Ebola out there or did you forget? Give the virus and the radiation time to go away."

"Dad did you make up that spreadsheet? That's cool."

"I wish I could claim credit, it was done by a fella in California who made spreadsheets for a living for a while. I looked at his formulas and added one more column for accumulated dose. What I discovered was that the longer you wait the better because the radiation just keeps decaying. If you wait to go out until your maximum accumulated dose is under 50 Rem, you'll never get sick because of the radiation. That TOM was originally from Iowa, Charles City, know the place?"

"They lost their Suspension Bridge in the flood?"

"That's the place. The bridge was a historical landmark. Our peak level was 235R, so if we stay in here for a total of 50 days, none will have to worry about radiation."

"But mom and you went out."

"For 30 minutes, just long enough to check everything out. The sky is sort grey/brown and the snow on the ground looks dirty."

"It's snowing?"

"Nuclear winter, I suspect. Could last a year or two, even up to ten, I don't know. I read every story TOM wrote, good, bad or indifferent. His favorite topic was WW III, GTW. Don't know what's up with him, he lived northeast of LA."

[I'm in Arkansas.....hehehe]

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"Fifty days? That's only 7 weeks, not as bad as it could have been, right?"

"And a day, but who's counting? When did we come down here?"

"Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>."

"And it's what?"

"December 2<sup>nd</sup>."

"So, we will be out before Christmas?"

"Only another 20 days."

“And then what?”

“I don’t know what you boys are going to do, but I’m going to lock and load.”

“Why?”

“Because the SCOTUS said we have a right to self-defense. I figured on going down to Camp Dodge and have a look see. Never know, might find something of use.”

“Like what?”

“I’ll start small and work my way up. M67, Mk211MP, M240B, M249 and M2HB, for starters. After we have all we can carry off there, we might just come home and drop it off and then make another trip to West Des Moines. We need food and more seeds for when we can plant a bigger garden. We might have to take over that vacant lot next door for the garden. God helps them that help themselves.”

“Uh, Dad, I don’t know quite how to tell you this, but you can’t justify stealing with that line. If we help ourselves we’re stealing.”

“I wasn’t talking about the strategic reallocation John. I was talking about planting the garden. That ordnance down there belongs to the citizens of Iowa, of which we are more than one. I only plan to reallocate our fair share.”

“Call it what you will John, John is right, you’d be stealing.”

“No sweat, I’ll go alone. You can stay home and guard the rifles and shotguns that Anne and I bought you.”

“Hey, that’s a low blow.”

“As it was intended to be.”

“I’ll go with you, daddy.”

“Thanks Rachael, but not in your condition you won’t.”

“I’ll go,” Anne spoke up.

“Ok, my favorite lady, grab your gun and let’s get going.”

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We were southbound on I-35 when Anne next spoke.



“You really laid into them, that’s not your usual style.”

“I suppose I mostly did that to get their attention. Look around you, it’s the same drive as we’ve made every day. But, it’s different, and it’s different in a way they’re having trouble comprehending. I don’t even know if we can get into Camp Dodge, it may be overflowing with National Guard troops. Assuming we do, I have no idea where to look for anything, but I’d bet their ordnance is stored in bunkers. I brought my portable cutting torch and bolt cutters so we should be able to get into some of them. In one of his stories TOM mentioned that he had most of the Army Field Manuals on his computer and I did a Google search and found several sources. I haven’t read them all, but we should be able to look up anything we need to know.”

“Even explosives?”

“Yes Anne, even explosives. Those FM were harder to find, but I got them. We’re here, the gate’s locked and there’s no one around.”

“Are you sure?”

“Want me to get out and call out?”

“Would you please?”

Well, I tried hello the gate and hello the camp and hello anybody and then waited until I half froze. There was not one living soul there. I got the bolt cutters and cut the padlock binding the chain that had been added to the gate lock. The torch made short work of the gate lock. We drove slowly through Camp Dodge and finally located some bunkers. The first bunker held 120mm tank ammo, so that one wasn’t for us. We went down the row and found .50-caliber ammunition for the M2HBs on the Abrams. We loaded some in the trailer and moved to the next bunker, which had .30-caliber ammo. Repeat, move on, repeat, etc.

We finally got to explosives, C-4 and those satchel charges. Next, we found the Raufoss and I took 20 ammo cans. Finally we located hand grenades, but strangely no LAW rockets. We did find M136 rockets so they would have to do. The weapons were locked up in an armory in a building. Anne and I took 3, an M249, an M240B with tripod and an M2HB with tripod. There was one slightly used M107 and I thought of David. We took it and returned to the bunker containing Raufoss and took 40 more cans, all they had.

When we got home, the boys came out to help us unload. I told them to forget it, I loaded it and I could unload it. I gave David his M107 and told him to take 30 cans of Raufoss. I was more than a little put out and my behavior reflected it. I put the machineguns and ammo in the garage stall where I usually parked my car. I wasn’t sure what to do with the rockets so they went with the machineguns. Explosives too, why not? We were out for good now so I went into the house, took off my coat and sat down

at the kitchen table for a cup of coffee that Anne had made while I unloaded the trailer and the car. It would be fair to say that I was in a less than expansive mood.

“Dad, it’s just that I...what are you doing?”

“Looking for a bullet hole, but I don’t seem to find one. Camp Dodge was totally deserted. We waltzed in there slick as you please, helped ourselves to most of the bunkers and broke into a building that held the armory. I got 3 machineguns, one of each size, and noticed that .50-caliber rifle so I took that for David. Just stay here and guard your rifle tomorrow and your mother and I will go to Costco by ourselves.”

“Johnny, your Dad is angry, but he’ll get over it. David and you should just be ready to go first thing in the morning.”

“Anne, stay out of it, please.”

“I will not stand by and watch you pout, John, get that straight in your mind.”

I about threw my coffee in his face when he said, “Hey, can’t we all get along?”

Then I realized how young he’d been when the Rodney King verdict came down and that he knew little of the ensuing riots. Reginald Denny, the fellow that was nearly beaten to death, survived, barely and the last I read worked as mechanic in Lake Havasu City.

“Sit down and let’s discuss this. Listen up; I have no intention of repeating myself. There are terms out there in the survival community that describe the situation we’re in. Starting from the most simple there TSHTF, as in The Stuff Has Hit The Fan, we can move to TEOCAWKI, as in The End Of Civilization As We Know It and finally, TEOTWAWKI, as in The End Of The World As We Know It. I don’t know if you saw the Clint Eastwood Movie *Heartbreak Ridge*. If it made any point, it was that we have to be able to *improvise, adapt and overcome*. Another movie, *Red Dawn* made the point that anyone, even a group of high school kids could prevail against a much larger organized force.”

“More or less. I’ve seen reruns of those movies.”

“We are well prepared but were short on many skills, like plumbing, electrical wiring, auto mechanics, locating replacement parts for our vehicles as they wear out, fuel for those vehicles and propane to keep our electric flowing. We’re well set in only two areas, a means to defend ourselves should the need arise and a large stock of Long Term Storage Food. Figure two years, minimum before we can plant a garden. We lack livestock as a source of meat, but may be able to find some. Even if we do, what do any of us really know about farming?”

“Our trip today was to improve our means of defense. Tomorrow, we’ll do what we can to improve our food situation until we can produce our own food. It’s dog eat dog and

since I have access to Costco, I intend to take advantage of that. We'll do what it takes to provide food and supplies we might need. There are just some things we can't produce, certain spices, certain processed foods, some of the staples no one ever gives much thought to. We well off in the medical department, your mother has seen to that. After that, we need to supply a source of propane or LNG for heat, the stove and running the generator. We will probably need more oil and filters for the genset too. Are you beginning to get the idea?"

"Somewhat, yes, I guess I am."

"We're basically out of work for the time being. This is the time to begin collecting what we need. I don't care what you call it, looting, stealing, strategic reallocation or any other euphuism. Odds are the authorities would probably treat us as looters and shoot us on sight; except maybe for Costco because I'm one of the managers."

"At least you had the foresight to arm us."

"That was twofold; the part I didn't mention was what might happen if *Heller* turned out differently. These two disasters have done more than any lawyers could in restoring the inalienable right to keep and bear arms. The court clearly said we have a right to self-defense. More likely that will boil down to who is the faster and aims the best."

"Are you taking the little trailer?"

"I thought we'd take it to Des Moines and pick up a 24' U-Haul truck and pull a 6'x12' trailer, maybe two. Since Civil Defense always stressed staying in a shelter for 2 weeks, there's a good chance that people who found shelter abandoned it too soon. That depends of factors we don't know, like the radiation level in Des Moines."

"Our stuff is in Des Moines, what are we going to do about that?"

"I hadn't thought about that, there are several empty homes in Cambridge. How much food do you think you lost?"

"As cold as it is and with no electricity, possibly none."

"John tomorrow is Christmas."

"So it is, ok we'll hold off for a day to go to Costco. We'll do that on the 26<sup>th</sup>. I would like to stop by Smith's and see if he has any more military style firearms."

"You have any cash left after that last trip to Costco?"

"No, but I do have 32 Krugerrands."

"What if it isn't open?"

“Camp Dodge wasn’t open and that didn’t stop us. I have the keys to Costco.”

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On December 26<sup>th</sup>, we drove one vehicle to Des Moines and picked up three trucks and three trailers. We then went to West Des Moines Costco and parked at the loading dock. I had a list that Anne had prepared listing things that we couldn’t grow in a garden, the first item being toilet paper. We used flashlights and the forklifts and took as much as we could to the trucks and trailers. Once we had the pallets, we started in on the ground level displays.

The list was long and quite accurate, razor blades, shaving soap, feminine hygiene, hand soap and so forth. I don’t know how she did it, but when we were done, the trucks and trailers were full and we had everything on the list. We convoyed home and took David’s car down to pick up my car. We didn’t unload because we had no place to store the haul. We couldn’t erect any kind of building to store it because the ground was frozen hard. Maybe come spring, we could put up some kind of building, a pole barn and a greenhouse would be nice.

We weren’t the only ones out and about and I intentionally left the back door of Costco unlocked, just being neighborly to the residents of West Des Moines. We weren’t alone in Cambridge either, several families had crowded into one of the four other shelters in town that had been built in the ‘50s. Some folks erected hasty shelters in their basements and didn’t come out until those in the shelters came calling.

An initial head count revealed that somewhere between 250 and 300 people had survived first the Ebola and next WW III. That represented somewhere between 25-30% of our pre-disaster population. Many of those 300 people stored an above normal amount of food because it was so far to the store and gas was expensive. We had a few stores and the Kum & Go did a lot of business, before.

“Are we done looting?”

“For the present, yes. Come spring, when it’s warmer, we’ll probably have to put up a storage building and possibly a greenhouse. That’s another idea I got from reading Patriot Fiction. Might be that the easiest thing to erect would be something like a 3 stall garage; I haven’t had a chance to think it through. One thing that I think we need to do in get around town and get better acquainted with the survivors. Some may be short on groceries and what not and it’s our Christian duty to help where we can.”

“Rachael and I know most of the people in our neighborhood,” David advised.

“John should know most of the people he went to school with, if they’re still around.”

“Hey, me too,” Rachael added.

“Only David and Jen aren’t from around here and I should have done better on getting to meet our neighbors, but with Anne and I commuting, about the only time everyone was out was on Saturday and Sunday’s after church.”

“Are you going to strap on your guns and just go say, How do you do?”

“I thought I might take a handgun, concealed of course. I can’t see any reason to upset people. I would like to get an idea of what the other people have for firearms. I expect most have shotguns and .22 rifles. We’ll just have to see, won’t we?”

“How much propane do you have left?”

“I haven’t looked. We started out with a little under 3,500-gallons. Let’s assume 1.5gph for the genset for 55 days. We probably have about 700-gallons left.”

“Shouldn’t that be a priority?”

“Yes, I suppose so. I got mine from Ferrellgas, but AmeriGas also serves Cambridge. Try the yellow pages for Ames, Ankeny and Des Moines. Find a location and go find a delivery truck. Hell, try all the places and get all the delivery trucks you can. We’re going to have to rely on the generator for power and propane for heat and cooking, so we’ll be burning a lot more than normal.”

“What about the other survivors who need propane?”

“We aren’t paying for it so the only investment we have is our labor. I suppose we could trade it for a like amount of labor and not charge for the fuel, would that be fair?”

“Dad, if we use 40 hours of labor getting the fuel and distributing it among 6 survivors and charge them each 40 hours of labor, we’ll be getting 240 hours back for our investment of 40 hours; no, it doesn’t seem fair.”

“How much time would each family have to invest getting 500-gallons, John?”

“The same as we did, 40 hours.”

“Think about what you just said. It’s a good deal for all concerned.”

What I didn’t say was that they’d be getting 3,000-gallons, not 500. No, it wasn’t totally fair, but I put some value on the risk of going out for propane. I have no idea how you value risk. I was thinking more of Community Service hours than hours they owed us. The town has a total area of about one square mile. I’d guess there are over 300 homes, maybe 350. Most of the people who live in Cambridge and were employed, commuted, to Ames, Ankeny or Des Moines. It’s just a nice rural setting.

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“Some of the survivors use natural gas, how do you propose to solve that problem?”

“We have a pool of Community Service hours, why not locate and install propane tanks? We’ll need to shop around for either jets or new appliances for them. They can do their own shopping and use one of the U-Hauls and trailers. You know, I didn’t realize how many people in this town didn’t own a military style weapon. We’d need to make a second trip to Camp Dodge and borrow some weapons, perhaps some M16A2s or M4s, with magazines and ammo, of course. In the aftermath is no time to get choosy, they’d just have to learn to keep their weapons clean.”

“John, you may speak for our family, but not for the entire town of Cambridge. How do you propose to resolve that?”

“By getting out and meeting people, trying to find out who those people with leadership qualities may be and organizing a committee or council. We may not have had national elections, but we could sure vote on who should lead us through our recovery.”

“John how much flour is on those trucks?”

“I don’t know Anne, all we had in the store. Why?”

“I had a thought that we should making and distributing sourdough bread. I doubt that many people in Cambridge still have bread other than those with propane ovens.”

“David would you or John find the flour and bring it in? We’ll load it up and haul it around to any survivors who have propane.”

“Anything else? How about coffee? Should we give them all the ingredients to make bread or only flour?”

“Do whatever it takes for them to have bread. Yes, I suppose you should give them all a can of coffee. One can only. Poll them about firearms and ask if they’d like a M16 and ammo.”

“You’re going back to Camp Dodge? I don’t believe it.”

“I will do whatever it takes for us to have relative safety here in Cambridge, including but not limited to going back and cleaning out that armory.”

“After what happened, you can count me in.”

## Child of the Cold War – Chapter 7

“Me, too,” David added.

I was sure that David would go, if for no other reason than to look for more .50-caliber ammo. I may or may not have shamed John; such was my intent. We sold flour in various size bags including 100-pound bags and we had several pallets of the 100-pound bags. It might keep long enough to use it up, it's one of the main staples in our diet. The survivors were going to have to learn to live on beans and rice as it was what we had the most of.

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More on what Hawk said...

Back on the night of October 7, 1965, an event of historic proportions, a true landmark in UFO history, took place – the actual incursion over Edwards Air Force Base in the Palmdale/Lancaster area of California's Mojave Desert of a number of extraterrestrial craft. If this astonishing event is now, finally, gaining any measurable attention, it is a direct result of my efforts. I make that statement in all humility...it is simply the truth. In fact, this unprecedented event is not to be found in any of the major UFO books, and with the exception of a few UFO magazines reviewing my work, and interviews done with me on programs like Jeff Rense's SIGHTINGS, this event still remains virtually unknown.

What makes this historic intrusion and visit so important is that the US Air Force thoroughly documented it and even gave it a code name: "The Incident." During that fall night in 1965, it seems that 12 luminous UFOs came right down low and just over a secure military runway. These craft were all sighted visually by Air Force personnel and by several types of radar. Further, the Air Force scrambled several jet fighters after them and during the event the possible use of nuclear weapons even became an issue. The entire incident was additionally documented with written reports, radar photos, and AUDIO TAPES made by Air Force personnel while they were actually SEEING the objects, FLYING AFTER the objects, and considering taking SERIOUS MILITARY ACTION against what they might imply as a threat.

From my calculations at least 40 hours of recordings were made (a five hour event recording from at least 8 locations). However, only six hours of tapes were declassified many years ago as a mass of noise and unclear voices, which truly defied interpretation. They had SCRAMBLED the tapes into what they felt was a hopeless jumble of random pieces of conversation utterly out of sequence and logical progression. When I realized what had been done, it presented a challenge which made me determined to find out what was hidden within that chaotic mass of sound.

After many months and countless hours of laborious research, cataloging, and editing the snips and pieces of the audio tape, I was able to organize the sound so the conver-

sations could be understood. I had successfully restored the tapes to their original and correct sequencing. I then added carefully researched narration, which explained what was taking place, so that the listener would clearly understand the unfolding event.

As narrator, I sought out Jackson Beck, the true dean of radio announcers and film commentators – the voice of the Paramount Newsreel, countless original Military films, and even the original narrator of the Superman radio program. Mr. Beck is now heard on many important new national radio and TV commercials. His voice is known to millions, even if his name is not. I felt he would add credibility to the narration of this astonishing historical event. In fact, he told me that he has made a lifelong study of the UFO field and has had several important sightings himself.

The resulting reconstructed tapes are now ironclad documented proof of the existence of extraterrestrial UFO visitation to this planet. I have sent copies of my finished product directly to a number of major Government Agencies and have received NO NEGATIVE COMMENTS! Not a single Official Agency has tried to debunk or discredit the event, or my presentation of the tapes.

Furthermore, The CSETI organization has used my tape presentation in meetings with members of Congress with the aim of having our government tell the public the truth of ET involvement on the Earth. TSgt Charles Sorrels, heard prominently on the original Edwards recordings of October 7, 1965, and in newly-produced segments confirming the event, made the presentation in Washington which featured my documentary version of the Edwards Tapes. And yes, the plane spotters at Edwards KNEW that UFOs or UFOBs, as they called them then, were not our “black” projects, Soviet bombers, or any known aircraft - they were unknown, fabulously high-tech craft with capabilities beyond any known technology. And...as they said on the old Superman series: *far beyond that of Mortal Man!*

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That has nothing to do with our present situation, but I copied it to my computer because I found it interesting. Our situation could be described as dire, terrible, awful, calamitous, ominous, dreadful, horrible, dismal or grim. We’re not talking about a single family of some 6-10 members, rather a community with 250-300 survivors. If we could find the needed resources, we had a very good chance of coming through this and out the other end. We needed air, shelter, water, food and a means of defense. That was the other rule of threes, except it went from minutes, to hours, days and weeks. You get the general idea, I hope.

When we went back to Camp Dodge, we cleaned out all the 5.56mm rifle ammo and M16s. A closer look at the armory revealed something I had missed, a M107 on the repair bench. Apparently whatever needed to be repaired had been and David reassembled the weapon. We looked for more Mk 211, but we had taken what they had. I was about to settle for belted .50-caliber ammo when John found ammo cans of M1022. I guess it was no longer experimental. One of the problems of depending on Global Se-



curity for information is that many of their web pages don't get updated. I can see why, they have a ton of web pages on that site, oops, make that had. They're located in Alexandria, VA.

Every once in a while, you just have to stop and smell the roses as it were. You can't do that literally in the middle of a nuclear winter, but that's not the point. With the hustle and bustle of everyday activities, it's easy to become overwhelmed, stressed out and anxious. Take time to relax, and learn how to stop and smell the roses. Only then can you recharge your batteries and appreciate what life has to offer.

Celebrate and reflect on positive events in your life. Feel the joy that the birth of a new child can bring, or give thanks for the opportunity to make a difference in someone else's life by volunteering your time for a worthy cause.

Take time to go outside, no matter what the weather, and breathe in fresh air. When you are feeling particularly frazzled, step away from what you are doing and go for a quick walk. Natural light and fresh air do wonders to ease feelings of depression; the increased blood flow from exercise increases mental awareness.

Unplug yourself from technology. Take a break from television, cell phones and other handheld electronic devices to appreciate what's around you. Spend a few minutes watching people go by. Close your eyes and listen to relaxing music. Take the time to examine a piece of art. Really look at it, studying the brush strokes and use of color and texture.

Reshuffle your priorities to include time for family, friends and play. Think about what you are missing by being so busy and stressed out, and be proactive about changing that. Cut back your hours at work. Don't worry about keeping a perfect house. Focus on what is truly important, and try not to be stressed out by inconsequential details.

Feel free to delete what doesn't apply, like our having not phones of any kind and no TV stations being on the air. WOI radio started broadcasting, local news only. The history of broadcasting at Iowa State University stretches back over more than 80 years. In 1911, Iowa State College physics professor "Dad" Hoffman rigged a transmission line from the campus water tower to Engineering Hall and asked for money to establish a wireless telegraph station. Most likely the first transmission from Iowa State took place in 1912. Newspaper reports from 1913 indicate station 9YI was regularly sending and receiving weather reports by Morse code. In 1915, the engineers packed up their equipment and went to the Iowa State Fair to demonstrate the amazing new technology. The first non-code broadcast took place on November 21, 1921 – an hour of concert music. The following April, the Commerce Department issued a license for station WOI and the first regular broadcast took place on April 28, 1922.

By the late 1960's, the federal government had begun to take a greater role in non-commercial, educational radio and TV, creating the Corporation for Public Broadcasting in 1968 to provide funds for what were now known as "public" radio and television sta-

tions around the country – including WOI AM/FM. National Public Radio came into existence in 1970 and WOI was one of 90 stations around the country to broadcast NPR's first program, "All Things Considered," on May 3, 1971.

As I said, it was local news, Story County. I hadn't realized that a reporter had been in Cambridge until they mentioned that there were around 300 survivors in Cambridge. That's all he said and it was part of a County summary. I'll bet the Story County Sheriff would have a hissy if he came down here and was greeted by a group of survivors carrying M16s, and larger. Well, they did say we had a right to self-defense and they did mention the M16, in some context. Now, he can call us up as the unorganized militia and he won't have to supply anything! TOM mentioned that I should check out Title 10 §311.

Title 10 § 311. Militia: composition and classes

(a) The militia of the United States consists of all able-bodied males at least 17 years of age and, except as provided in section 313 of title 32, under 45 years of age who are, or who have made a declaration of intention to become, citizens of the United States and of female citizens of the United States who are members of the National Guard.

(b) The classes of the militia are –

(1) the organized militia, which consists of the National Guard and the Naval Militia; and  
(2) the unorganized militia, which consists of the members of the militia who are not members of the National Guard or the Naval Militia. (That be us, excluding me due to age.)

Title 32 §313: Appointments and enlistments: age limitations

(a) To be eligible for original enlistment in the National Guard, a person must be at least 17 years of age and under 45, or under 64 years of age and a former member of the Regular Army, Regular Navy, Regular Air Force, or Regular Marine Corps. To be eligible for reenlistment, a person must be under 64 years of age.

(b) To be eligible for appointment as an officer of the National Guard, a person must –

(1) be a citizen of the United States; and  
(2) be at least 18 years of age and under 64.

We're armed about as good as the National Guard because we borrowed their weapons. Some of us are getting to be pretty damned good shots, especially David. Rachael too, once she has the baby. Say, since I didn't see a reporter, you don't suppose we have a mole, do you? That makes a person think twice about sharing goods and/or information. "Where did you get that?" "Get what?" "The coffee." "Just an extra can I had lying around." Or... "The M16?" "Found it in an unlocked room." "That many?" "Large unlocked room." You can always hit them with, "That's a capacious disregard of a salient element." They'll still be saying "Huh?" next week.

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"Sure wish they'd get the phone back up."

“Are you dying to call someone?”

“It would be nice to call the Sheriff if we had trouble.”

“In the first place, law enforcement is under no obligation to protect us. In the second place, by the time they drove from Nevada to Cambridge, we’d all be dead if we couldn’t defend ourselves.”

“You’d shoot someone?”

“If it’s a choice between him shooting me and me shooting him, you bet your sweet bippy! Why do you think we spend so much time on the range practicing, you can’t use an M1A to hunt deer in Iowa! I have no idea what a .50BMG cartridge would do to a deer, but you might be able to salvage enough for a pot of soup! Is that enough reasons or do you need more?”

Lately John had been so irritating. Maybe it was just me and the stress I felt being in the situation we found ourselves. I wasn’t worried about the national election that we had missed because of something the Abraham Lincoln had said. I’m sure you’ve heard it before.

*Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.*

*Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation, so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.*

*But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate – we cannot consecrate – we cannot hallow – this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us – that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion – that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain – that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.*

I refer specifically to the last part, “government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.” Compare it to a church; the church is the people, not the building. The government is the people, not a group of elected officials. Na-

ive and ideological? Perhaps. But I also believed that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment was an individual inalienable right.

Was the Civil War over states' rights or slavery? It's the prerogative of the winner to say, keep that in mind. You can believe anything you choose, I couldn't care less, but I'm a Yankee, my people came from Pennsylvania way back when. They lived not far from Gettysburg, less than 50 miles; Chambersburg and beyond.

Let's try another one, who started WW III? Did Osama bin Laden start it when he destroyed the WTC? Did George Bush start it when he attacked Afghanistan and Iraq? Did the unnamed terrorists start it when they released weaponized Ebola in the US and consequently the world? Did George Bush begin it when he retaliated against unnamed countries in the Middle East for developing and releasing weaponized Ebola? Did Russia and China begin it when they retaliated against the US although neither country had been attacked? Damned if I know, but we ended it. More importantly, does it really matter who started it? It's finally happened and we survivors are left to pick up the pieces.

o

I've noticed that some of the readers criticize TOM for suggesting the practice of strategic reallocation. He says looting is taking something you don't need from someone who is in possession of it and that strategic reallocation is recovery of abandoned things that you really need to survive. For all I know, it may boil down to whom has the better firepower, but my sense of it is that if you don't recover the abandoned property, someone else will. I borrowed many of his ideas because they just sounded right to me. Perhaps our last best hope in restoring order will be the unorganized militia assisting law enforcement, something he hasn't discussed much.

Most Sheriff Departments have some sort of provision for Reserve forces they can call upon when they find a situation to be overwhelming. Here in central Iowa, I can't believe that the Sheriff would have much difficulty in raising a reserve force or a posse on short notice. He has to first reestablish law and order and subsequently maintain it. Iowa has almost 1,000 towns, most of them small. That's a lot of small town folks with small town ideas, a good thing, I think. Last spring when we had the floods, you saw very few people standing around waiting for the government to do it. They pitched in, loaded sandbags, etc. But, then again, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri and Arkansas aren't Louisiana. When the people in the Midwest were told to evacuate, they did a very strange thing, they evacuated.

During the '50s some school systems took whole classes/grades to see *The 10 Commandments*. They continued to say the Pledge of Allegiance until they were forced to abandon it. Very few schools would punish a student over saying a blessing over the hot lunch served in the school cafeteria. I guess we're just out of step with Mainstream Society. I reasoned that if the Iowa National Guard needed those supplies, they would have picked them up long before we did. Since they didn't, we'll be good neighbors and lend them a hand.

I declined to accept a position on the town council. There with others who had military experience and my background was merchandising. The result was our family being put in charge of securing food and maintaining enough to get us through the growing season, whenever that might be. Logistics? We used the U-Hauls and went from store to store. We were forced to pass up any open stores but found enough that were locked up to gradually build the supplies. The new storage building, having been built on frozen ground would settle and we could only hope the settling wouldn't be excessive.

The Kum & Go, our only gas station, was kept supplied with gasoline and diesel and a genset was used to power the pumps. We had seen a few generators at Camp Dodge and passed the word. We also kept the propane tanks full. Yep, logistics. Someone had to do it and Napoleon learned that an Army travels on its stomach. In his day, that meant feeding the horses and in our day that meant fueling those vehicles that still ran. We couldn't begin to grow people food until the snow was gone and the ground had warmed up enough to allow the seeds to germinate and sprout. Got ours from two sources, The Ark Institute and Walton Feed. We'd grow 1/2 of all the seeds we had and try to harvest seeds in the fall, providing we planted at all.

The second station in the area to return to the air was WHO, followed shortly thereafter by KRNT. Again, it was local news, but for all of Polk County and beyond. The Sheriff reported a break-in at Camp Dodge, but said he didn't have a clue who had done it, probably a bunch of survivalists. Nah, we're preppers and more recently, we're in charge of logistics.

Over time, it became more difficult to strategically reallocate resources; people were emerging from shelters and so forth. The LEOs were getting their act together. All was not lost, most Iowa cities, including Cambridge, use natural gas. Iowa stores millions of gallons of liquefied natural gas in large underground domes. All it took was electricity to restore the natural gas, for now. This enabled us to reallocate more propane, usually at Oh Dark Thirty. We had several sources and approached them in a random fashion.

Think it through; even if Farrell Gas and AmeriGas resumed deliveries, few had money to pay for it because they weren't working. The Governor issued a proclamation suspending mortgage payments for the duration, e.g., until the recovery was pretty much complete. And, that brings us to the straw that broke the camel's back. Meredith Publishing is a major employer and they weren't publishing. John Deere Des Moines Works was shut down for now, tractors are very expensive. Even the state of Iowa was running with a skeleton crew, mostly those in emergency services. And, Des Moines had it lucky, only a little fallout from Omaha and Lincoln. Iowa State University in Ames suspended classes, as had U of I and UNI. The state ordered all 17 area colleges closed, e.g., not reopened. None of Iowa's many private colleges reopened either.

While Iowa hadn't been directly hit by nukes, Carter Lake and Council Bluffs were too close to the Omaha blast and had suffered extensive damage. Carter Lake is actually on the other side of the Missouri river and for years had been Las Vegas East.

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A study published in the Journal of Geophysical Research in July 2007, *Nuclear winter revisited with a modern climate model and current nuclear arsenals: Still catastrophic consequences*, used current climate models to look at the consequences of a global nuclear war involving most or all of the world's current nuclear arsenals (which the authors described as being only about a third the size of the world's arsenals twenty years earlier). The authors used a global circulation model, from the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, which they noted "has been tested extensively in global warming experiments and to examine the effects of volcanic eruptions on climate." The model was used to investigate the effects of a war involving the entire current global nuclear arsenal, projected to release about 150 Tg of smoke into the atmosphere (1 Tg is equal to  $10^{12}$  grams), as well as a war involving about one third of the current nuclear arsenal, projected to release about 50 Tg of smoke. In the 150 Tg case they found that:

*A global average surface cooling of  $-7^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $-8^{\circ}\text{C}$  persists for years, and after a decade the cooling is still  $-4^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Considering that the global average cooling at the depth of the last ice age 18,000 years ago was about  $-5^{\circ}\text{C}$ , this would be a climate change unprecedented in speed and amplitude in the history of the human race. The temperature changes are largest over land ... Cooling of more than  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  occurs over large areas of North America and of more than  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  over much of Eurasia, including all agricultural regions.*

In addition, they found that this cooling caused a weakening of the global hydrological cycle, reducing global precipitation by about 45%. As for the 50 Tg case involving  $\frac{1}{3}$  of current nuclear arsenals, they said that the simulation "produced climate responses very similar to those for the 150 Tg case, but with about half the amplitude", but that "the time scale of response is about the same." They did not discuss the implications for agriculture in depth, but noted that a 1986 study which assumed no food production for a year projected that "most of the people on the planet would run out of food and starve to death by then" and commented that their own results show that "this period of no food production needs to be extended by many years, making the impacts of nuclear winter even worse than previously thought."

That was what we faced and it didn't sound good.

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Well, the brown snow melted but the ground failed to warm up enough to plant seeds, forcing us to plan B, building a rather large greenhouse on the edge of town using plastic sheeting. If we could find it, we'd later build one using Lexan, Plexiglas or real glass. For the moment, we did what we could with the materials we could locate. We checked the Plant Introduction Farm on the south side of Ames, but the citizens of Ames were using that huge greenhouse.

I knew a little about the farm because the guy who ran it for years moved to Cambridge when he retired. His name was Herb Spencer and cancer got him a few years back. His wife died later, 2007 I think. It was a shame because Herb would have known what we had to do to grow food. Fortunately, I got a few ideas from him and more from Frugal's Forums. They all said, "Build a greenhouse," just as clearly as Horace Greeley had said, "Go west young man," a phrase that had been written by John Soule in the Terra Haute Express.

When the new Republican Party was founded in 1854, Greeley made the Tribune its unofficial national organ, and fought slavery extension and the slave power on many pages. On the eve of the Civil War circulation nationwide approached 300,000. His editorials and news reports explaining the policies and candidates of the Whig Party were reprinted and discussed throughout the country. Many small newspapers relied heavily on the reporting and editorials of the Tribune. He served as Congressman for three months, 1848 – 1849, but failed in numerous other attempts to win elective office. In 1860 he supported the ex-Whig Edward Bates of Missouri for president, an action that weakened Greeley's old ally Seward.

Greeley made the Tribune the leading newspaper opposing the Slave Power, that is, what he considered the conspiracy by slave owners to seize control of the federal government and block the progress of liberty. In the secession crisis of 1861 he took a hard line against the Confederacy. Theoretically, he agreed, the South could declare independence; but in reality he said there was "a violent, unscrupulous, desperate minority, who have conspired to clutch power" –secession was an illegitimate conspiracy that had to be crushed by federal power. He took a Radical Republican position during the war, in opposition to Lincoln's moderation. In the summer of 1862, he wrote a famous editorial entitled "The Prayer of Twenty Millions" demanding a more aggressive attack on the Confederacy and faster emancipation of the slaves. A month later he hailed Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.

Funny, I thought it was Horatio Alger who said that, but Anne corrected me. We didn't have difficulty finding lumber or heavy clear plastic and constructed a greenhouse in record time. With limited sunlight, it didn't warm up as much as I would have liked and we added a kerosene heater or two. That got it warm enough to germinate the crops, but crops require sunlight to grow. We then added fluorescent fixtures stocked 50-50 with warm-white and cool-white bulbs. It was as close as we could come to duplicating natural sunlight, but, it seemed to work. One advantage was that fluorescent bulbs require little energy. *Improvise, adapt, overcome*; TOM always quoted Gunny Highway. Gunny Highway was right, it worked for us.

"What are we going to do for more flour?"

"Go to the grain elevators and buy wheat. Because of the floods, much of southern Iowa was planted in wheat and oats this past year."

"Are you sure?"

“It was in the Des Moines Register.”

“Is it sacked?”

“I doubt it, take those open U-Haul trailers; they should hold a couple of tons, each. If you find a source, go back for more and start lying in oats, we can roll them or grind them.”

I asked the first question and those were Anne’s responses. I don’t know what I would do without her. On another front, they were slowly restoring electrical power and with it the phone system. By a year after WW III, we were almost back to before. I say almost because the only way you could grow crops was in a greenhouse, due in large part to the ongoing nuclear winter. It was so bad that it took about 40 acres of ground to support one head of livestock, if it was planted wholly in a grass crop. That, in turn, made beef a luxury. One, I should point out, that we couldn’t afford.

Unlike most of the country, Iowa had it pretty good; until the government came out of their shelters and became aware of that fact. I swear I’ve never seen so many jack-booted thugs. We dug a mass grave and planted them so they could fertilize the grass. Those of us that died in the confrontation were buried in individual graves in a place of honor. No members of my family died although John took a graze that was more hap-penstance than anything. We were using our M1As from a range of 600 yards and the feds were using MP5s. We even took out a few Hummers at a range of ½ mile or more. When it was over and done, we parked the Hummers at Camp Dodge. We kept the MP5s, on account they might come in handy, someday.



## Child of the Cold War – Epilogue

That's what happened in 2008 and 2009. It was around 2020 before we could grow real crops in the fields again and even then, yields were low. Global Warming ceased to be a topic of interest; people were praying it would warm up again. It seems that not only did we have WW III; we had an extended solar minimum. Either occurrence would have had the same effect, together we were up the creek in a leaky canoe without a paddle.

The Sheriff did make a pass though Cambridge and near had a heart attack when he saw the M16s, machineguns and rockets. He didn't run for reelection, although I don't know if it's related. Of all the things that could have happened, few did. The earthquake happened but Yellowstone didn't erupt. The volcanoes in the Cascade Range eventually stopped smoking without erupting. Chalk that up to our being lucky.

Anne and I have 7 grandchildren with 1 more on the way, Rachael is pregnant again. I retired from Costco and it took some time before I was able to receive my pension plan. It's a good thing I had that because Social Security ceased to exist. We also had a retirement plan, the kind that invested in gold. We were able to pull it all out, but not at first. It was an IRA.

The kids moved back to their homes except for John and Jennie, who took over an abandoned home in Cambridge and when the bank came calling, arranged a mortgage on the balance owed the bank. It was a home with a bomb shelter. It took time, lots of time, but I finally managed to change John's mindset. He's now a genuine, dyed-in-the-wool prepper. As the weather slowly warmed, we began to have tornados again. David and I helped and Jen and he put in a 1,000ft<sup>2</sup> bomb shelter, complete with 15kw generator running on biodiesel.

We used up most of our accumulated food in the early years because we couldn't grow it as fast as it was eaten up by the people of Cambridge. More recently, we've been able to rebuild it to a five year supply for two people. John and Rachael each have a ten year supply for six people.

About the only other thing that I can think of that might interest a reader would be the subject of M1A rifles. When I got one bunch of gold, the boys and I drove over to Genesco, Illinois and purchased 8 Loaded model M1A rifles. We got a good deal on magazines too, \$20 each for the 20-round. We still had a ton of Lake City ammo, literally tons I should point out, and it probably represent a lifetime supply.

WW IV won't be fought with sticks and clubs, Einstein was wrong, but have no doubt, the Main Battle Rifle will play a big part. If we have one, it will be a totally conventional war. The US totally abandoned nuclear power after the war and turned to wind generated power. They also abandoned the use of coal and gasoline, and diesel consumption had fallen every year since the war.

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